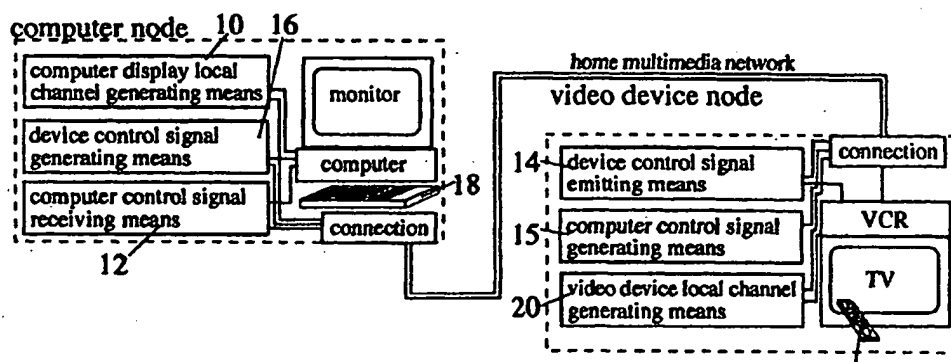




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : H04L	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/18054 (43) International Publication Date: 30 March 2000 (30.03.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/21900 (22) International Filing Date: 21 September 1999 (21.09.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/101,416 22 September 1998 (22.09.98) US 60/107,588 9 November 1998 (09.11.98) US 60/113,142 18 December 1998 (18.12.98) US 60/126,226 25 March 1999 (25.03.99) US 60/132,066 30 April 1999 (30.04.99) US (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: DANIELS, John, J. [US/US]; 323 Roosevelt Drive, Seymour, CT 06483 (US). (74) Agent: DANIELS, John, J.; 323 Roosevelt Drive, Seymour, CT 06483 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MULTIMEDIA NETWORKING SYSTEMS



(57) Abstract

A multimedia network for enabling the viewing of computer-generated data on any television, video and/or audio display connected to a multimedia network, such as a hard wired coaxial television cable network. The multimedia network enables the remote control of a computer via control signals carried over the multimedia network, as well as the remote control of a video device via control signals generated by a computer and carried over the multimedia network, thus enabling the viewing of computer-generated data on any television, video and/or audio display connected to a multimedia network. A method for indicating the content recorded on a video recording medium. The content may include recorded movies, television programs or home video recording. An HTML-type document is created by a computer or microprocessor and recorded on the recording medium. This HTML-type document includes information that pertains to the content recorded on the recording medium. An inventive wireless display terminal receives a video signal originating from a computer, multimedia or other audio and/or video signal generating device and transmitted via RF signals from an antenna node. A controllable, high security, low emission, clear and consistent wireless signal zone anywhere desired within the office or home. Antenna node devices connect with pre-existing wire networks and act as a bridge between wireless devices and the hardwire network. The use of the pre-existing wire network creates an efficient and effective transmission path for connectivity between the antenna node devices and devices connected to the coax. The use of wireless network components creates the opportunity for mobility and avoids the problems associated with installing new wires.

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METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MULTIMEDIA NETWORKING SYSTEMS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

The present invention pertains to a multimedia networking system. The present invention also pertains to a wireless display terminal for use with a multimedia networking system. Further, the present invention pertains to antenna node devices for bridging a wired network and wireless devices of a multimedia networking system.

Multimedia networking systems allow the output of a audio, video or computer data signal generating device, such as a computer, VCR, DVD, home stereo, etc. to be available for display through a remotely located display device. For example, the monitor output of a computer located in one room in a home can be transferred via the networking system to a display device, such as a television, located in another room in the home. Control signals generated by a user input device, such as a remote controller or wireless keyboard, are transferred over the networking system to the computer so that a user can remotely control the computer while viewing the monitor output on the television.

Typically, the data signals are transmitted between the networked devices over a hard wire network, such as a coaxial cable, Ethernet, phone lines, or power lines. Alternatively, the data signals can be transmitted wirelessly using a radio frequency carrier wave.

However, in many home installations there is no one wired network available that can carry data from a source location (for example, a computer) to any room in the home. Wireless rf networking systems are less than adequate due to attenuation of the rf signal within the home because of, for example, the absorption and reflection of the rf signal when it encounters typical home building materials such as drywall, foil-backed insulation, concrete block, etc. Simply boosting the antenna power output from the point source of the signal (in this example, the location of the computer) to the receiving antenna (in this case, the mobile wireless display terminal wireless display terminal) is often not an effective solution. For such point-to-point transmission to be effective, the signal power may have to be boosted to a level that exceeds the maximum FCC (or other regulatory body) limitations. Also, the boosting of the antenna output may be undesirable in situations where the signal will interfere with other devices, or be susceptible to eavesdropping by neighbors, etc.

Accordingly, there is a need for a networking solution that combines the mobility and flexibility of a wireless network with the security and signal consistency of a hard wired network.

Further, there are many types of mobile computing devices, such as portable lap top

39 computers, portable televisions, cordless phones, and the like. However, those devices are

1 not effective for simultaneously display computer-generated images, Internet content and
2 full motion video.

3

4 **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:**

5 It is an object of the present invention to provide a multimedia network for enabling
6 the viewing of computer-generated data on any television, video and/or audio display
7 connected to a multimedia network, such as a hard wired coaxial television cable network.
8 It is a further object of the present invention to provide a multimedia network for enabling
9 the remote control of a computer via control signals carried over the multimedia network. It
10 is a further object of the present invention to provide a multimedia network for enabling the
11 remote control of a video device via control signals generated by a computer and carried
12 over the multimedia network, and for enabling the viewing of computer-generated data on
13 any television, video and/or audio display connected to a multimedia network. It is another
14 object of the present invention to provide a method for indicating the content recorded on a
15 video recorder. It is another object of the present invention to provide a video recording
16 system for recording content-indicating information on a video recording medium. It is
17 another object of the present invention to provide a wireless display terminal. The wireless
18 display terminal receives a video signal originating from a computer, multimedia or other
19 audio and/or video signal generating device and transmitted via RF signals from an antenna
20 node. It is another object of the present invention to create a controllable, high security, low
21 emission, clear and consistent wireless signal zone anywhere desired within the office or
22 home. The present invention includes antenna node devices that connect with pre-existing
23 wire networks and act as a bridge between wireless devices and the hardwire network.
24 The use of the pre-existing wire network creates an efficient and effective transmission
25 path for connectivity between the antenna node devices and devices connected to the
26 coax. The use of wireless network components creates the opportunity for mobility and
27 avoids the problems associated with installing new wires.

28 In accordance with the present invention, implemented through the inventive
29 algorithms, methods and devices, and as described herein and shown in the drawings, a
30 number of useful features are enabled throughout any home or office having the
31 inventive multimedia system installed. These features include the following, and a
32 variety of others described herein. Internet and email from any television. Run
33 computer applications from any television. Play computer CD-ROM games at any
34 television. Play a DVD-ROM movie from your computer and watch it on any TV in the
35 house. View the output of any video device (satellite, cable box, VCR or video
36 recorder, DVD, WebTV) on any TV. Use a VCR in one room to make a copy of a tape
37 from a VCR or video recorder in another room. Control any computer, video or audio
38 device from any room in the house. Video intercom between any of the TVs in the
39 house. *SPEAKER PHONE with advanced caller id, message
mail box and address list from*

1 any television. Advanced VCR or video recorder content-indicating recording and
 2 control. Multiple screen picture-in-a-picture on any TV. Point and click VCR or video
 3 recorder programming. Automatic profile-based television show selection and VCR
 4 programming. Wireless sound activated video baby monitor or security camera
 5 viewable on any TV. In-house digital data transfer between computers, printers and
 6 other peripherals. Home automation with voice activation as well as feedback and
 7 control displays on any TV. Compatible with most or all conventional analog
 8 televisions, computer monitors and HDTV. Compatible with most or all cable and
 9 satellite set top boxes, Internet appliances, VCRs, DVDs. Compatible with home
 10 automation systems such as X-10.

11 The inventive system also comprises a number of embodiments of a wireless
 12 display terminal. The wireless display terminal receives a video signal originating from
 13 a centralized computer and transmitted via RF signals from an antenna node. The
 14 antenna node may be located in the proximity of the centralized computer, or may be
 15 connected to the centralized computer through a wire network, such as a phone line, co-
 16 axial cable, electrical power line, fiber optic, data line, or other wire network. The
 17 wireless display terminal may also receive signals from a video and/or audio signal
 18 source, such as a video recorder, set top box, telephone system, video camera,
 19 intercom, security system, home automation system, or other video and/or audio signal
 20 generator. The video and/or audio signals are again transmitted via RF signals from the
 21 antenna node located in proximity with the video and/or audio signal source or
 22 connected to the source through the wire network.

23 The inventive wireless display terminal may include video and/or audio signal
 24 generating and transmitting components, such as a CCD camera, microphone and RF
 25 signal transmitter. The wireless display terminal may thus be used for two-way audio
 26 and/or video communication with various display devices connected to the inventive
 27 network, and through the network connection, with various external devices and
 28 systems. For example, the wireless display terminal can be used as a remote video and
 29 audio link for external communication through a telephone or video conferencing
 30 system, and through the Internet or other network system. The wireless display
 31 terminal may also be used for a video and/or audio intercom system with other devices
 32 connected locally to the inventive multimedia network.

33 The wireless display terminal can be used as a highly portable personal digital
 34 assistant. When within the range of its "home" multimedia network, the wireless
 35 display terminal acts as a mobile computer monitor and television or video recorder
 36 display. Through the remote control of the centralized computer, the wireless display
 37 terminal effectively has the computational power of the centralized computer. The
 38 inventive wireless display terminal may include on-board intelligence, such as a CPU or
 39 *MICROPROCESSOR, TO ENABLE IT TO FUNCTION AS A PDA EVEN WHEN OUTSIDE
 THE RANGE OF THE*

1 inventive multimedia network. Further, the wireless display terminal can also be used
2 with other wireless networks other than its "home" network.

3 The wireless display terminal can also have sufficient on-board storage to enable
4 it to download HTML and other documents from network connections such as the
5 Internet. The Internet connection can be direct via an on-board modem, or it can
6 indirect through data transferred from the centralized computer.

7 The inventive wireless display terminal can include a control signal generator for
8 generating control signals that are effective to remotely control the operation of the
9 centralized computer. The control signal generator can also directly control the various
10 appliances and devices in the home through the emission of infrared or other wireless
11 signals, or these appliance and devices can be indirectly controlled via the control of the
12 centralized computer.

13 The inventive system includes modular units (starting from a basic configuration
14 that can be built upon to add functionality) that are easy to install into the pre-existing
15 home coaxial cable television network, telephone or electrical wiring, can be included in
16 the wiring of a new construction, installed as a wireless system, or include a
17 combination of different hard wire and/or wireless nodes. In its basic form, the system
18 lets any TV in the house act as a computer monitor, and allows the computer to control
19 the video devices distributed through out the house, such as TVs, VCRs and cable set
20 top boxes, and audio devices such as stereos, CD players, etc. The computer control of
21 the devices, such as TVs, VCRs, etc., combined with the availability of the computer
22 and device output on any television enable a host of useful and novel features,
23 distributing virtual computer intelligence throughout the relatively "dumb" pre-existing
24 home stereo and video devices. The video and/or audio output of any video device,
25 audio device or computer on this multimedia network can be made available on any
26 device on the network that is capable of using the output.

27 With the installation of the basic configuration, any room in the home that has a
28 coaxial cable hook-up becomes a network node. For those locations that do not have a
29 coaxial cable hook-up, a wireless node can be provided. In the preferred configuration,
30 each node includes an addressable interface unit that has some limited built-in
31 intelligence. A centralized conventional home desktop computer does the bulk of the
32 processing power. For those homes without a computer, a dedicated microprocessor
33 can be provided that allows for the operation of most of the inventive system features.

34 The inventive system is designed from the ground-up to be extremely simple to
35 install and initialize, with automatic upgrade potential and system diagnosis that
36 maintains trouble free operation. The inventive system is compatible with most any
37 cable, satellite or broadcast television connection.

1 With the basic configuration installed, any TV in the home will have access to
 2 the Internet, email, computer gaming and any other typically used computer function
 3 (record keeping, word processing, scheduling, etc.).

4 Other features include a video intercom system that allows for two-way video
 5 and audio communication between users located at different rooms in the home. A
 6 speaker phone system with advanced caller id and voice activation, as well as an
 7 Internet-based video telephone system that allows two-way video and audio
 8 communication between users at different locations anywhere in the world (from the
 9 comfort of their respective living room couch). A sound and/or motion activated
 10 wireless video monitor automatically turns on any selected television(s) and alerts when
 11 the baby cries or when someone is at the door. A home stereo distribution system
 12 allows a home stereo located in any room in the house to be controlled and listened to
 13 (using the television speakers, if available) from any other room in the house.

14 The inventive system includes an advanced VCR control system that provides
 15 content-indicating recording and detection for recording and displaying content-
 16 indicating information to and from a videotape. A VCR located anywhere in the home
 17 is controlled to record a computer-generated information header at the beginning of the
 18 videotape. The recorded signal is a WWW-like content page that can be displayed on
 19 any television via the computer-network connection, with hyperlinks that correspond to
 20 the television programs recorded on the videotape. Alternatively, each videotape can
 21 have a tape identification signal recorded continuously recorded on it. The tape
 22 identification signal corresponds to a tape database stored in the computer hard drive or
 23 other storage device 24. In addition to the tape identification, the header or other
 24 locations on the tape and the tape database contain information such as what is recorded
 25 on the tape, the location of commercial breaks, amount of time left for recording on the
 26 tape, amount of time of content recorded on the tape, tape location marks, the locations
 27 of the beginning and ending of programs recorded on the tape, hyperlinks and web-like
 28 html pages (which may correspond to the content recorded on the tape, or be provided
 29 for other purposes, such as advertisements and program and movie previews), still
 30 photos, and other data. In the case of the hyperlinks and web-like pages, multiple
 31 pages may be downloaded from the videotape to the computer to be cached. The data
 32 can be provided in the vertical-blanking interval and/or at any other recordable portion
 33 of the videotape (such as just prior to the start of the program). Further, a short segment
 34 of each program recorded on the tape can be provided at or near the beginning of the
 35 tape, and its location identified either by data recorded on the tape and/or in the
 36 database, so that the viewer can get a glimpse of what each program is about.

37 As an example of the inventive system's advanced VCR features, when a
 38 videotape is inserted in any of the home's VCRs, a content page can be uploaded from the
 39 VCR to the computer for display on a TV located anywhere in the house (not

1 necessarily in the room where the VCR or the computer is located). The playback of
 2 the tape can be controlled via signals generated in accordance with software running on
 3 the remotely located computer. The content page includes links to the Internet for
 4 information relevant to the recorded show, suggestions of similar shows, etc. By
 5 activating one of the content page's hyperlinks, the user selects a recorded TV show to
 6 watch. The computer receives the selection and controls the VCR to cue up the selected
 7 recorded TV show and begin playback. Using a determined user-profile (determined
 8 by a questionnaire and/or by a data base of the TV viewing habits of the household), the
 9 computer can be used to predict what shows the user might be interested in, access the
 10 Internet or electronic programming guide, and automatically control the VCR to record
 11 these shows anytime during the day or evening without any additional user input.

12 In accordance with an embodiment of the inventive multimedia network, a first
 13 computer node is provided including computer display local channel generating means
 14 for generating a computer display local television channel containing a video output
 15 signal corresponding to a computer display output signal generated by a computer
 16 locatable at the computer node. The computer display local television channel being
 17 effective for allowing displaying of video data generated by the computer on an
 18 ordinary television located on the multimedia network remotely from the computer.
 19 Device control signal generating means controllable by the computer generates device
 20 control signals transferable over the multimedia network. The device control signals are
 21 effective to selectively control at least one video device located on the multimedia
 22 network remotely from the computer. Computer control signal receiving means
 23 receives computer control signals transferred over the multimedia network. Content
 24 determining means determines content-indicating information corresponding to the
 25 content recorded on or to be recorded on videotape. Cue determining means determines
 26 control cue information for automatically controlling a videotape recorder. Converting
 27 means converts the determined content-indicating information into recordable content
 28 data. Generating means generates a recordable information signal for recording on the
 29 videotape. The generating means includes content signal generating means for
 30 generating a recordable content signal corresponding to the recordable content data, cue
 31 signal generating means for generating a recordable control cue signal corresponding to
 32 the control cue information and combining means for combining the recordable content
 33 signal with the recordable cue signal to generate the recordable information signal.
 34 Transferring means transfers the recordable information signal to a videotape recorder,
 35 and video device controlling means controls the videotape recorder to record the
 36 recordable information.

37 The video device controlling means includes playback controlling means for
 38 controlling the video recorder to playback a recorded information signal including the
 39 *RECORDABLE CONTENT SIGNAL PREVIOUSLY RECORDED ON THE*
videotape. DETECTING MEANS

1 detects the content-indicating information from the recordable information signal so that
2 an indication of the recorded content of the videotape can be displayed. The
3 transferring means includes means for transferring the recordable information signal to
4 an information signal detecting means.

5 A video device node is included on the multimedia network. Video device local
6 channel generating means generates a video device local television channel containing
7 the video and/or audio output of the video recorder or other multimedia device located at
8 the video device node. In accordance with the inventive VCR tape content indicating
9 aspects of the present invention, the recorded information signal played back from the
10 videotape is included in the video and audio output of the video recorder. Device
11 control signal emitting means receives the device control signals and emits video device
12 control signals effective for controlling the video recorder located on the multimedia
13 network remotely from the computer. Thus, the video device can be remotely
14 controlled by the computer. The video device node further includes computer control
15 signal generating means controllable by a user input device for generating computer
16 control signals transferable over the multimedia network so that the computer can be
17 remotely controlled in response to a user input.

18 The detecting means includes means for detecting control cue information from
19 the recordable information signal. The device control signal emitting means emits
20 device control signals for automatically controlling the videotape recorder depending on
21 the control cue information.

22 The video device local channel generating means includes means for generating
23 the video device local television channel as at least one of dc signals, rf signals
24 carryable over a conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic,
25 wireless rf signals and wireless IR signals; and the computer control signal generating
26 means includes means for generating the computer control signals as at least one of dc
27 signals, rf signals carryable over a conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable
28 over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals and wireless IR signals. In accordance with one
29 embodiment, the video device local channel generating means includes means for
30 generating the video device local television channel as rf signals carryable over a pre-
31 existing home coaxial cable television network, and the computer control signal
32 generating means includes means for generating the computer control signals as dc
33 signals carryable over the pre-existing home coaxial cable television network.

34 In order to avoid any conflicts with televisions channels available from a cable
35 television provider (or other television service provider), the rf signals can be
36 modulated by carrier frequencies that are outside the range allotted to television
37 channels, or outside the range of frequencies that are tunable by an ordinary television.

38 In this case, the frequencies that are used to generate the local television channels can
39 be preset, making the implementation of circuitry less complicated as compared with the

1 system that must first determine which channels are available, find a suitable channel
2 that does not have too much interference from an adjacent channel, filter out the suitable
3 channel, and then use a variable frequency generator to generate the suitable channel for
4 use as a carrier frequency for the local channel. Rather, in accordance with this aspect
5 of the present invention, a predetermined set of frequencies can be generated by preset
6 frequency generator(s), and their association as a local channel generator for a device
7 manually set by the user.

8 The computer display local channel generating means may include high-
9 definition signal generating means for generating the local television channel as
10 containing the video output signal as high-definition-display-device-driving information
11 for driving a high definition display such as a computer monitor or high definition
12 television. The inventive multimedia network may include a high-definition node
13 having display-driving means for receiving the local television channel containing the
14 high-definition-display-device-driving information and for driving a high definition
15 display device.

16 The first computer node includes computer data signal generating means for
17 generating a computer data signal in accordance with computer data received from the
18 computer for transfer of the computer data signal over the multimedia network. The
19 inventive multimedia network may include a computer device node having computer
20 data signal receiving means for receiving the computer data signal from the multimedia
21 network for transfer to a second computer or computer data using device such as a
22 printer or data storage device 24 locatable at the second computer node.

23 The computer data signal generating means includes means for generating the
24 computer data signal as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a conductive
25 wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals and wireless
26 IR signals.

27 A second computer node may be provided on the inventive multimedia network.
28 The second computer node has another computer display local channel generating
29 means for generating another computer display local television channel containing a
30 video output signal corresponding to a computer display output signal generated by a
31 second computer. Another computer control signal receiving means receives the
32 computer control signals transferred over the multimedia network.

33 Further, the multitasking and multiple monitor display capabilities enabled by
34 conventional desktop computer operating systems are taken advantage of in accordance
35 with the present invention. Multiple users of the same computer can be accommodated
36 simultaneously by generating a plurality of local television channels that each
37 correspond with a respective computer monitor output signal. The familiar desktop

38 elements such as task bars, menus and available files and storage devices can be
39 *replicated for each user by generating windows having the appropriate user interface*

1 elements. Further, the preferences of each user can be maintained in a user database so
 2 that a particular desktop and available features are displayed through a customizable
 3 graphical user interface.

4 In accordance with the present invention, addressable controlling means may be
 5 provided including an address signal generator for generating an address signal and
 6 address signal receiver for receiving the address signal. The address signal generator
 7 being controllable by the computer, controlled through manual input or managed by a
 8 stand-alone microprocessor. The address signal receiver is effective for controlling the
 9 device control signal emitting means to emit the device control signal depending on the
 10 received address signal. Thus, the devices on the inventive multimedia network can be
 11 selectively controlled depending on the address signal associated with the particular
 12 device or node. The address signal generating includes means for generating the
 13 address signal as a signal carryable over a pre-existing home coaxial cable television
 14 network and connecting means for connecting the address signal generator to the pre-
 15 existing home coaxial cable television network. A selectable channel filtering means
 16 selectably filters channel frequencies carried on a television signal source in
 17 communication with the multimedia network, the selectably filtered channel frequencies
 18 are thus made available for use as local television channels.

19 In accordance with the present invention, the inventive multimedia network can
 20 be used to provide enhanced uses of the pre-existing video, audio and multimedia
 21 device in a home. For example, each room of the home that has a television can
 22 become part of an in-home speaker phone, video phone or video intercom system. In
 23 accordance with this aspect of the invention, at least one microphone input located at a
 24 location on the multimedia network is provided for receiving microphone signals.
 25 Selecting means, such as a relay circuit, selects the input of the microphone signals and
 26 adding means adds the selected input of the microphone signals to be carried on the
 27 multimedia network. Means, such as a connection with the speakers of a pre-existing
 28 TV or stereo system generates audible sound signals corresponding to the selected input
 29 of the microphone signals at a location on the multimedia network remote from the
 30 location of the at least one microphone input receiving the selected input of the
 31 microphone signals. At least one video camera input is located at a location on the
 32 multimedia network for receiving video camera signals. Selecting means selects the
 33 input of the video camera signals, and at least one of the computer display local
 34 television channel generating means and the video device local television channel
 35 generating means includes means for including the selected input of the microphone
 36 signals and the selected input of the video camera signals in the corresponding computer
 37 display local television channel and the video device local television channel.

38 In the case of a home speaker-phone system, means is provided for connecting
 39 *the selected input of the microphone signals to a telephone system. Means for notifying*

1 the existence of a received telephone call on at least one display connected to the
2 multimedia system and means for answering the received telephone call and selecting
3 the input of the microphone signals received by the microphone input are also provided.
4 These can all be done through the telephony circuitry and appropriate software control
5 of available personal computer system, or a stand-alone microprocessor or telephony
6 circuitry can be employed. Means may be included for determining a telephone number
7 of a received telephone call. In this case, the caller-id data carried with a conventional
8 telephone call signal is accessed and the origin phone number is determined. Means is
9 provided for displaying the determined telephone number on said at least one display.
10 The determined phone number may be displayed as an over-lay graphic that is generated
11 and combined with the video signal (such as a TV program) that is being displayed.

12 In accordance with the addressable capabilities of the present invention, it can be
13 determined in what room the user is that is taking the phone call by detecting the
14 address signal generated along with the computer or device control signals when the
15 user selects to take the call. Thus, the microphone and or video camera only at that
16 location is activated to carry the phone, video phone or video intercom conversation.

17 Means may be provided for connecting to the Internet and downloading Internet
18 data, along the lines of the commercially available WebTV Internet appliance, cable or
19 teleco modems, etc. Internet video output signal generating means receives the Internet
20 data and generates an Internet video signal dependent thereon. The device local channel
21 generating means includes means for generating the video device local television signal
22 containing the Internet video output signal data.

23 The computer can be connected to the Internet via means for connecting the
24 computer to the Internet and downloading Internet data (such as a conventional
25 modem). The computer display local channel generating means includes means for
26 generating the computer display local television signal containing the Internet video
27 output signal data.

28 Device control signals can be transferred over the multimedia network between
29 the location of the user and the Internet connected device to allow for navigation of the
30 Internet content. Thus, a single Internet accessing device can be used to provide
31 Internet access on any display device on the inventive multimedia network.

32

33 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:**

34 Figure 1 is a block diagram showing the basic configuration of the inventive
35 multimedia network;

36 Figure 2(a) is a block diagram showing a computer-enabled VCR system in
37 accordance with the present invention;

38 Figure 2(b) is a block diagram showing the inventive VCR/Internet appliance;

1 Figure 2(c) is a block diagram showing a configuration of an inventive multiple
2 node wireless multimedia network;

3 Figure 2(d) is a block diagram showing a DVD recorder system controlled over
4 the inventive multimedia network in accordance with the present invention;

5 Figure 2(e) is a block diagram showing a computer-enabled DVD or random
6 access recorder system in accordance with the present invention;

7 Figure 2(f) is a block diagram showing a DVD/RAM/Internet appliance;

8 Figure 2(g) illustrates a variety of random access memory configurations for a
9 random access video recorder in accordance with the present invention;

10 Figure 3(a) is a block diagram of the inventive video recording system for
11 recording content-indicating information on a videotape;

12 Figure 3(b) is a block diagram of the inventive multimedia network including
13 the inventive video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a
14 videotape;

15 Figure 3(c) is a block diagram of the inventive multimedia network including the
16 inventive video recording system, in-house video intercom, multiple computer device
17 nodes and other inventive features and enhancements;

18 Figure 3(d) is a block diagram illustrating the connecting through a
19 communications network such as the Internet or telephone lines connection to another
20 multimedia network of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 3(c), and
21 showing a video telephone conversation between a user located at the multimedia
22 network shown in Figure 3(c) with another user located at the other multimedia
23 network;

24 Figure 3(e) is a block diagram showing a mixed network system for connecting
25 various node of the inventive multimedia network, including a connection between a
26 computer node and a first device node via data transferred through a home electrical
27 wiring network and a connection between the second device node and the first device
28 node via a home co-axial cable connection;

29 Figure 3(f) is an illustration showing a wireless audio transmission system for
30 effecting the control of a VCR and a remotely located computer in response to audio
31 tone and speech recognition signals transmitted via a wireless audio transmitting user
32 remote controller;

33 Figure 3(g) is a table showing the mapping of the remote control buttons to
34 frequency or pulse train signals corresponding to software-determined variable
35 functions for controlling various appliances and devices using a single remote control
36 unit.

37 Figure 3(h) is a block diagram showing the components of the set top box
38 shown atop the VCR in Figure 3(e) and the remote control unit;

1 Figure 3(i) is a block diagram of an embodiment of the inventive multimedia
 2 network having a computer node with multiple TV channel tuning capabilities, and a
 3 manual user selectable local channel frequency selection means for assigning the local
 4 channels containing the computer video output and the device video output in a
 5 manually defined manner;

6 Figure 3(j) is a flow chart showing the initialization of the inventive multimedia
 7 network system;

8 Figure 3(k) is a block diagram showing an embodiment of the inventive
 9 multimedia network configured for allowing multiple simultaneous users of a single
 10 computer with separate computer generated video information displayed on three
 11 remotely located televisions or other display devices connected to the inventive
 12 multimedia network;

13 Figure 3(l) is a flow chart for enabling multiple simultaneous users of a single
 14 computer with separate computer generated video information displayed on three
 15 remotely located televisions or other display devices connected to the inventive
 16 multimedia network;

17 Figure 3(m) is a block diagram of the inventive multimedia network having a
 18 device remote control signal detector and a device status detector for enabling the
 19 computer to determine the status of a device, such as its on/off state, and the operation
 20 of the device, such as remote controlled channel selection, for a device connected with
 21 the inventive multimedia network;

22 Figure 3(n) is a block diagram of an embodiment of the inventive multimedia
 23 network utilizing local television channels that are outside the frequency range of
 24 normally received television channels;

25 Figure 3(o) is a block diagram showing a configuration of the inventive
 26 multimedia network for directing data to and for controlling devices capable of
 27 recording one type of data to record data not normally recorded by the device;

28 Figure 3(p) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
 29 having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wirelessly linked
 30 computer; the wireless linked computer being enabled for use with the inventive
 31 multimedia network via wireless components incorporated in a standard PCI or
 32 expansion module;

33 Figure 3(q) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
 34 having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wireless display
 35 terminal, the wireless display terminal being enabled with a wireless transmitter and
 36 receiver for use with the inventive multimedia network and for use with other similarly
 37 configured wireless display terminals;

38 Figure 3(r) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
 39 *having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wireless display*

1 terminal, the wireless display terminal being capable of sending video and audio back to
2 the multimedia network and to other similarly configured wireless display terminals;

3 Figure 3(s) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
4 having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wireless display; the
5 wireless display terminal being comprised of relatively low cost components;

6 Figure 3(t) illustrates a configuration of an embodiment of a touch screen
7 wireless remote control device for displaying a same image on the remote control device
8 screen as is shown on a large display connected with the inventive multimedia network;

9 Figure 4(a) is a flowchart showing the basic method for recording content-
10 indicating information on a VCR tape in accordance with the present invention;

11 Figure 4(b) is a flowchart showing the basic method for playing back content-
12 indicating information recorded on a VCR tape in accordance with the present invention;

13 Figure 4(c) is a flowchart showing the basic method for recording content-
14 indicating information on a DVD or other random access recorder in accordance with
15 the present invention;

16 Figure 4(d) is a flowchart showing the basic method for playing back content-
17 indicating information recorded on a DVD or other random access recorder in
18 accordance with the present invention;

19 Figure 4(e) illustrates a random access disk recording media having program
20 content, a program content indicating document, and program content and document
21 address index signal recorded thereon in accordance with the present invention;

22 Figure 4(f) is a flow chart showing the steps for controlling remote devices
23 using the inventive wireless terminal via a remote computer in accordance with the
24 present invention;

25 Figure 4(g) is a flow chart showing the steps for choosing the display selection
26 for the inventive wireless terminal;

27 Figure 5 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of the inventive
28 multimedia network configured as stand-alone accessory boxed distributed on network
29 through direct and wireless connections;

30 Figure 6 is a block diagram showing the use of microphone and speaker ports
31 of a computer or video device for transferring signals for recording and receiving VCR
32 tape content information over the inventive multimedia network;

33 Figure 7 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
34 configured as an add-on part for a computer and imbedded VCR system;

35 Figure 8 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
36 distributed over an existing home phone line network for transferring video, audio
37 and/or computer data as a digital and/or analog signal;

1 Figure 9 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
2 distributed over an existing home coaxial cable television network for transferring
3 video, audio and/or computer data as a digital and/or analog signal;

4 Figure 10 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
5 distributed over the existing home electrical wiring network for transferring video,
6 audio and/or computer data as a digital and/or analog signal;

7 Figure 11 is a block diagram illustrating the capabilities of a single computer-
8 enabled set-top box being available at any TV on the inventive multimedia network;

9 Figure 12 shows the details of a distributed computer-enabled set top box
10 capabilities distributed over the inventive multimedia network;

11 Figure 13 is a block diagram showing a basic configuration of an inventive
12 addressable multimedia network;

13 Figure 14(a) is a schematic representation of a VCR tape recorded in accordance
14 with the inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape;

15 Figure 14(b) is a schematic representation of a VCR tape recorded with short
16 portions of the different television programs or home video recording segments
17 recorded at the beginning of the tape for facilitating recorded content selection;

18 Figure 14(c) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
19 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
20 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
21 tape having room for piggyback data;

22 Figure 14(d) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
23 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
24 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
25 taped being used for recording inaudible tone signals used as recorded control cue
26 information recorded throughout the tape or at specific locations in accordance with the
27 present invention;

28 Figure 14(e) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
29 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
30 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
31 taped being used for recording tape identifying information and location on tape
32 identifying information throughout the tape or at specific locations in accordance with
33 the present invention;

34 Figure 14(f) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
35 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
36 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
37 taped being used for recording tape identifying information and/or location on tape
38 identifying information and/or commercial skip data throughout the tape and/or at
39 specific locations in accordance with the present invention;

1 Figure 15 is a schematic representation of the VCR tape shown in Figure 14(a);
2 Figure 16 is a schematic representation of the VCR tape shown in Figure 14(a);
3 Figure 17 is a flow chart showing a tape formatting operation in accordance
4 with the inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape;
5 Figure 18 is a flow chart of a pre-recording procedure in accordance with the
6 inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape;
7 Figure 19 is a flow chart of the tape recording procedure in accordance with the
8 inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape;
9 Figure 20 is a flow chart showing the playback procedure of a selected pre-
10 recorded program in accordance with the inventive method of indicating the content
11 recorded on a videotape;
12 Figure 21 is a block diagram showing an example configuration of the inventive
13 multimedia network containing multi-purpose nodes distributed over a pre-existing
14 coaxial cable television network;
15 Figure 22 is a continuation of the example multimedia network shown in Figure
16 21;
17 Figure 23 is a continuation of the example multimedia network shown in Figure
18 21;
19 Figure 24 is a continuation of the example multimedia network shown in Figure
20 21;
21 Figure 25 is a perspective view of a wireless multimedia computer for use with
22 the wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24;
23 Figure 26 is a schematic side view showing parts of the wireless computer
24 shown in Figure 24;
25 Figure 27(a) is a front view of a wireless display terminal or use with the
26 wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24;
27 Figure 27(b) is a perspective view of a wireless display terminal or use with the
28 wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24;
29 Figure 28(a) is an isolated view of a touch screen user input device and LCD
30 display screen, with a block diagram showing the components of an embodiment of the
31 inventive wireless display terminal;
32 Figure 28(b) is a front view of an embodiment of the inventive wireless display
33 terminal having an attachable touch screen/display unit that can be attached to a self-
34 contained wireless computer as shown in Figure 26, with a wireless component unit
35 attached to the touch screen/display unit;
36 Figure 28(c) is a front view of the wireless display terminal shown in Figure
37 28(b) having the wireless component unit being detached;
38 Figure 28(d) shows an embodiment of the inventive wireless display terminal
39 mounted on a keyboard stand;

1 Figure 28(e) shows the wireless display terminal being detached from the
2 keyboard stand;
3 Figure 28(f) shows the wireless display terminal having the keyboard stand
4 being placed in a stowed position;
5 Figure 28(g) shows the wireless display terminal having the keyboard stand
6 disposed in the stowed position behind the display screen;
7 Figure 28(h) shows the wireless display terminal having the keyboard stand
8 disposed in a protective position in front of the display screen;
9 Figure 28(i) shows a wireless display terminal having an internally disposed
10 directional antenna for use in communicating with the remote computer, devices
11 connected with the multimedia network, wireless modem, and/or radio telephone;
12 Figure 28(j) is a side view showing the wireless display terminal shown in
13 Figure 28(i) and showing an internally disposed directional antenna, communication
14 circuit and display screen;
15 Figure 28(k) is a perspective view of an inventive personal digital assistant
16 having the inventive antenna assembly mounted for wireless communication; and
17 Figure 28(l) is a side view of the personal digital assistant shown in Figure
18 28(k), schematically showing a communication circuit, display screen and the inventive
19 antenna assembly;
20 Figure 28(m) is an isolated enlarged cross sectional view of a flexible
21 rechargeable battery used in accordance with the present invention;
22 Figure 28(n) is an isolated schematic view of a wireless terminal circuit board
23 disposed adjacent to the flexible rechargeable battery;
24 Figure 28(o) is a cross sectional top view of a flexible rechargeable battery and
25 wireless terminal case shell prior to assembly in accordance with a manufacturing aspect
26 of the present invention;
27 Figure 28(p) is a cross section top view of the assembled flexible rechargeable
28 battery and wireless terminal case shown in Figure 28(o);
29 Figure 28(q) is a cross sectional side view taken along line c-c of the assembled
30 flexible rechargeable battery and wireless terminal case shown in Figure 28(p);
31 Figure 28(r) is an isolated enlarged cross sectional side view of an assembled
32 and electrically sealed end of the wireless terminal case shown in Figure 28(q);
33 Figure 28(s) is an enlarged cross sectional view of an antenna assembly in
34 accordance with the present invention;
35 Figure 28(t) is a cross sectional view along line 40-40 of Figure 28(s);
36 Figure 28(u) illustrates an inventive wireless display terminal having computer
37 controlled display-changeable button function names mapped to side buttons;

1 Figure 29 is a schematic perspective view of a bracelet personal locator for use
2 with the wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in
3 Figure 24;

4 Figure 30(a) is a schematic perspective view of a badge-type personal locator
5 for use with the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24;

6 Figure 30(b) illustrates an adhesive patch body circuit having a signal
7 transmitter for use as a personal locator;

8 Figure 30(c) illustrates the adhesive patch body circuit adhered to the arm of a
9 user;

10 Figure 30(d) illustrates an implantable body circuit having a signal transmitter
11 implanted within the arm of a user;

12 Figure 31 is a perspective view of a hand-held personal digital assistant for use
13 with the wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network in Figure 24;

14 Figure 32 is a graphic illustration of an addressable unit pulse train and device
15 control signal pulse train;

16 Figure 33 is a block diagram showing a configuration of an addressable
17 multimedia network having a single local channel generator at each node;

18 Figure 34 is a block diagram showing a configuration of the inventive
19 addressable multimedia network having multiple computer nodes and video device
20 nodes distributed on the network;

21 Figure 35 is a block diagram showing another configuration of the inventive
22 addressable multimedia network having a node with a double local channel generator;

23 Figure 36 is a block diagram showing another configuration of the inventive
24 addressable multimedia network having a three channel high-definition location channel
25 generator;

26 Figure 37 is a block diagram showing another configuration of the inventive
27 addressable multimedia network having a computer node and a computer signal device
28 node;

29 Figure 38 is a block diagram showing a example prototype configuration of the
30 inventive multimedia network;

31 Figure 39 shows some of the windows of the Multimedia Network prototype
32 FaceSpan project;

33 Figure 40 shows some more of the windows of the Multimedia Network
34 prototype FaceSpan project;

35 Figure 41(a) is a schematic diagram of an IR remote control signal playback
36 circuit module and an IR remote control signal capture circuit module for connecting
37 with a computer (or other remote control signal generator/detector) and the inventive
38 multimedia network to enable the computer to capture and learn the remote control
39 signals remotely generated by an IR generating remote control unit at a device node or at

1 the computer node, and to allow the computer to generate device control signals for
2 controlling devices located remotely on the inventive multimedia network;

3 Figure 41(b) is a schematic diagram of an IR remote control signal playback
4 circuit module and an IR remote control signal capture circuit module for connecting
5 with a computer (or other remote control signal generator/detector) and the inventive
6 multimedia network to enable the computer to capture and learn the remote control
7 signals remotely generated by an IR generating remote control unit at a device node, and
8 to allow the computer to generate device control signals for controlling devices located
9 remotely on the inventive multimedia network;

10 Figure 41(c) is a schematic diagram of an IR detector and emitter unit for use at
11 a device node to be connected via the multimedia network with the IR circuit modules
12 shown in Figures 41(a) and (b) located at a computer node or other remote control
13 signal generating node;

14 Figure 41(d) is a flowchart showing the steps for using the IR remote control
15 detector shown in Figure 41(b) for learning the remote control signals for devices
16 connected to the multimedia network;

17 Figure 42(a) shows a display device screen, such as a television, receiving
18 video data generated by the remotely located computer indicating the initialization of a
19 video intercom call;

20 Figure 42(b) shows a display device screen, such as a television, receiving
21 video data generated by the remotely located computer showing a video intercom call in
22 process;

23 Figure 42(c) shows a display device screen, such as a television, receiving
24 video data generated by the remotely located computer showing the zooming in of the
25 caller's image during a video intercom call;

26 Figure 43 is a flowchart showing the operation of a video intercom conversation
27 in accordance with the present invention;

28 Figure 44(a) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
29 generated by the remotely located computer showing a horizontal split screen with an
30 internet web page and a television program;

31 Figure 44(b) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
32 generated by the remotely located computer showing a picture-in-a-picture (PIP) split
33 screen with an internet web page and a television program;

34 Figure 44(c) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
35 generated by the remotely located computer showing a vertical split screen with an
36 internet web page and a television program;

37 Figure 45(a) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
38 generated by the remotely located computer showing a PIP split screen with a first

1 television program shown full screen and a second television program shown in PIP
2 format;

3 Figure 45(b) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
4 generated by the remotely located computer showing a PIP split screen with a first
5 television program shown with its screen size altered to fit within one-half the display
6 area and a second and a third television program shown in PIP format;

7 Figure 45(c) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
8 generated by the remotely located computer showing a horizontal split screen with a
9 first television program resized to fit within the top half the display area and a second
10 television program resized to fit within the bottom half the display area;

11 Figure 46 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
12 software to enable a remotely located device to record a radio program with a content-
13 indicating information signal;

14 Figure 47 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
15 software to enable a remotely located VCR to obtain a commercial skip VCR recording
16 feature in accordance with the present invention;

17 Figure 48 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
18 software to enable a remotely located VCR to obtain another version of the commercial
19 skip VCR recording feature in accordance with the present invention;

20 Figure 49 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
21 software to enable a remotely located VCR to playback a recorded program with the
22 commercial skip feature in accordance with the present invention;

23 Figure 50 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
24 software to enable TV viewing autopilot features in accordance with the present
25 invention;

26 Figure 51 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
27 software to enable a commercial rebound feature in accordance with the present
28 invention;

29 Figure 52 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
30 software to enable parental control features in accordance with the present invention;

31 Figure 53 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
32 software to enable additional parental control features in accordance with the present
33 invention;

34 Figure 54 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
35 software to enable a voice-activated child monitor feature in accordance with the present
36 invention;

37 Figure 55 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
38 software to enable a security alert feature in accordance with the present invention;

1 Figure 56 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
2 software to enable scheduling features in accordance with the present invention;

3 Figure 57 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
4 software to enable a home reference system feature in accordance with the present
5 invention;

6 Figure 58 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
7 software to enable an Internet-based alert feature in accordance with the present
8 invention;

9 Figure 59 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
10 software to enable an email alert feature in accordance with the present invention;

11 Figure 60(a) is a flowchart showing the duplication of a video by remotely
12 controlling two or more devices connected with the inventive multimedia network;

13 Figure 60(b) shows a configuration of a set top box for use with the inventive
14 multimedia network;

15 Figure 60(c) shows an inventive wireless display terminal for use within range
16 of a multimedia network identified on the network via addressable handshake exchange,
17 and for use outside the range of the network for use as a stand-alone personal digital
18 assistant, pager, cellular telephone, etc.;

19 Figure 60(d) shows an inventive wireless display terminal in use for controlling
20 devices connected with the multimedia network through control signals communicated
21 via a central computer;

22 Figure 60(e) shows an inventive wireless display terminal connected with a
23 central computer of an inventive multimedia network having multiple computer display
24 local channels;

25 Figure 60(f) shows a variety of wireless display terminals connected and
26 communicating with each other through control signals via a central computer;

27 Figure 60(g) shows a plurality of wireless display terminals in use in a class
28 room setting;

29 Figure 60(h) shows a wireless display terminal connected with a multimedia
30 network having the capability of displaying TV (NTSC) and high-definition (computer
31 monitor, HDTV) display images;

32 Figure 60(i) illustrates a home multimedia network that connects with display,
33 input and control devices throughout the home, and that communicates with a computer
34 system located in a vehicle node when the vehicle is in the home garage;

35 Figure 60(j) illustrates a home multimedia network having content input
36 received through Internet, satellite, cable television, phone line and the like at a central
37 computer and distributed via bridge circuits throughout the home via coaxial cable,
38 phone line and electrical wiring networks

1 Figure 61 illustrates a child's toy having sensors and input mechanisms used for
2 communicating with a remote computer via a wireless transmission and reception
3 circuitry and display output and toy movement controlled in response to control signals
4 originating from the computer;

5 Figure 62(a) is a block diagram showing a bridge circuit for use with the
6 inventive multimedia network for enabling simultaneous two-way audio, video, data
7 and control signals generated by various devices connected to the network to transmit
8 over hard wire networks such as coaxial, phone, electrical and data line as well as for
9 the wireless transmission of such signals;

10 Figure 62(b) shows an expansion module for use with a pre-existing notebook
11 or desktop computer to enable simultaneous two-way way audio, video, data and
12 control signals generated by various devices connected to the network with the pre-
13 existing computer;

14 Figure 62(c) shows a prototype configuration demonstrating the feasibility of
15 the inventive bridge circuit and expansion module shown in Figures 62(a) and 62(b);

16 Figure 62(d) shows an alternative embodiment of the inventive expansion
17 module including a removable video/audio/control signal transmitter;

18 Figure 63(a) illustrates an inventive home or office network configuration,
19 comprising a home or office network module connected to at least one I/O port and a
20 monitor port of a computer a second network module connected at a multimedia device
21 (VCR);

22 Figure 63(b) is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of a multimedia
23 device transceiver network module and a computer transceiver network module;

24 Figure 63(c) illustrates an inventive home or office network configuration
25 having a wireless network communication with a wireless display terminal wireless
26 display terminal via at least one antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate;

27 Figure 63(d) is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of the home or office
28 network with a wireless signal communication between the wireless display terminal
29 and the computer transceiver network module via the directional antenna coax faceplate;

30 Figure 63(e) illustrates the use of the inventive antenna node device directional
31 antenna coax faceplate for creating a clear consistent wireless signal within a networked
32 home or office;

33 Figure 64(a) is a front view of an embodiment of the inventive antenna node
34 device directional antenna coax faceplate;

35 Figure 64(b) is a perspective view of the embodiment of the inventive antenna
36 node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown in Figure 64(a);

37 Figure 64(c) is an isolated perspective view of a directional antenna and coax
38 connector of the inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown
39 in Figure 64(a);

1 Figure 64(d) is an isolated side view of a directional antenna and coax connector
2 of the inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown in Figure
3 64(a);

4 Figure 65(a) is an isolated side view of the directional and coax connector of the
5 inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown in Figure 64(a)
6 connected to a coax network;

7 Figure 65(b) is block diagram of an embodiment of the directional and coax
8 connector of the inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown
9 in Figure 65(a);

10 Figure 65(c) illustrates a home or office networked home having antenna node
11 devices connected at various terminal ends of a pre-existing coax network, and further
12 illustrating the inventive capabilities of wireless signal attenuation within the zone of
13 coverage;

14 Figure 65(d) illustrates a home or office networked home having antenna node
15 devices connected at various terminal ends of a pre-existing coax network, and further
16 illustrating the inventive capabilities of wireless signal handoff between two antenna
17 node devices within the zone of coverage;

18 Figure 65(e) illustrates a home or office networked home having a combination
19 of coaxial antenna node devices and phone line antenna node devices installed, along
20 with a powerline connected rf repeater unit, for creating a zone of coverage throughout
21 a home;

22 Figure 66(a) is a side view illustrating a antenna node device having a
23 directional antenna disposed at a signal optimizing angle;

24 Figure 66(b) is a perspective view of the antenna node device shown in Figure
25 66(a);

26 Figure 66(c) is a perspective view of a antenna node device accessory antenna
27 system for connecting with a pre-existing coax faceplate;

28 Figure 66(d) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device configuration
29 comprising a wireless video/audio/data and control signal circuit for use within the
30 inventive home or office network;

31 Figure 66(e)) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device
32 configuration comprising a wireless video/audio/data and control signal circuit for use
33 within the inventive home or office network, including a phone jack connection and a
34 voltage peak filter for detecting dc control and data signals included as voltage peaks
35 superimposed on a constant dc power supply signal;

36 Figure 66(f) is a graph illustrating the dc control and data signals included as
37 voltage peaks superimposed on a constant dc power supply signal;

38 Figure 66(g) illustrates an obverse side of a printed circuit board construction of
39 the inventive circuit for an embodiment of the antenna node device, the circuit including

1 a rf signal amplifier and rf mixer for optimizing the signal transmission carried over the
2 coax network, while allowing for a wireless signal within a suitable bandwidth (e.g.,
3 2.4 Ghz);

4 Figure 66(h) illustrates a reverse side of the printed circuit board construction of
5 the inventive circuit shown in Figure 66(g);

6 Figure 66(i) is a perspective view of a antenna node device accessory antenna
7 system for connection with a pre-existing coax faceplate;

8 Figure 66(j) is a perspective view of a antenna node device stand-alone antenna
9 system for connection with a pre-existing coax terminal connector;

10 Figure 66(k) is a perspective view of a antenna node device directional antenna
11 coax faceplate for replacement of a pre-existing coax faceplate;

12 Figure 66(l) is a block diagram illustrating a prototype construction embodiment
13 of the inventive home or office network;

14 Figure 67(a) is a flowchart showing the operation of an inventive analog
15 scrambler;

16 Figure 67(b) is an example of the sync signal and frequency adjustment in
17 accordance with the inventive analog scrambler;

18 Figure 68(a) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device configuration
19 for use with a phone line network, and including device locating circuitry for use in
20 determining the location of devices within the inventive home or office network;

21 Figure 68(b) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device configuration
22 for use with a power line network for communicating wireless and hardwired signals
23 transmitted within the inventive home or office network;

24 Figure 69(a) is a flowchart showing the steps of determining the appropriate
25 signal power transmitted from antenna nodes within the inventive home or office
26 network;

27 Figure 69(b) is a flowchart showing the steps of determining the location of a
28 device located within the inventive home or office network;

29 Figure 69(c) is a flowchart showing the steps of determining the appropriate
30 signal power transmitted between antenna nodes and wireless devices within the
31 inventive home or office network;

32 Figure 69(d) illustrates the determination of the location of a device by detecting
33 the distance between the device and two or more antenna nodes within the inventive
34 home or office network;

35 Figure 69(e) is a flowchart showing the steps of using a frame buffer to limit the
36 display degradation due to the disruption of a video signal transmitted to a device
37 connected to the inventive home or office network;

1 Figure 69(f) is a flowchart showing the steps of compensating for microwave
2 oven interference when transmitting data to a device connected with the inventive home
3 or office network;

4 Figure 69(g) is a flowchart showing the steps of compensating for microwave
5 or other pulsating interference when transmitting video data to a device connected with
6 the inventive home or office network;

7 Figure 70(a) illustrates the use of the inventive wireless display device for
8 displaying Internet and intranet content in external network environments, such as
9 schools, airports, airplanes, grocery stores and the like;

10 Figure 70(b) is a flowchart showing the steps of transmitting, receiving and
11 displaying Internet and intranet content on networked display devices;

12 Figure 71(a) is a flowchart showing the steps of using Internet-based
13 information triggers for controlling events within a networked home or office;

14 Figure 71(b) is a table showing examples of subscriber-selected online triggers;

15 Figure 71(c) is a table showing examples of subscriber-selected trigger events;

16 Figure 72(a) illustrates the transmittal of six frames of a video stream containing
17 six pages of a website in accordance with the inventive method of transmitting
18 hyperlinked content to multiple display devices;

19 Figure 72(b) illustrates a blank browser page used to navigate through
20 downloaded page content;

21 Figure 72(c) shows display information contained in Frame 1 of Figure 72(a)
22 displayed within the browser frame shown in Figure 72(b);

23 Figure 72(d) illustrates a single frame of the video stream shown in Figure 72(a)
24 including the display information and non-display information corresponding to page
25 contained within the frame;

26 Figure 72(e) illustrates the various links and their operation that results when the
27 hyperlinks shown in Figure 72(d) are activated;

28 Figure 72(f) illustrates another series of web pages that are transmitted as video
29 data;

30 Figure 72(g) shows a web page with the corresponding non-display data
31 included along with the page;

32 Figure 72(h) illustrates how the binary video data stream can be conveyed using
33 just the on/off states of the pixels of the video image;

34 Figure 72(i) illustrates a video stream containing display page information
35 contained within the displayed area of the individual video frames, and hyperlink page
36 information and other non-display page information contained in the non-display area of
37 the video signal or video page stream;

38 Figure 72(j) illustrates a stream of video data provided along with hyperlink,
39 page information and other non-videographic page information, with split static

1 videographic page information provided along with split moving image videographic
2 page information;

3 Figure 72(k) shows a block diagram of an inventive display device for use with
4 the inventive method of transmitting hyperlinked information;

5 Figure 72(l) illustrates a wireless display device receiving a window of moving
6 image videographic page information superimposed on a screen of static videographic
7 page information;

8 Figure 72(m) shows a PDA-type wireless display device displaying static and
9 moving videographic page information;

10 Figure 72(n) shows a blank page of a high speed HTML browser window in
11 accordance with the prototype FaceSpan software program disclosed herein;

12 Figure 72(o) shows an internet page having the grid locations of the page's
13 hyperlinks determined and the page displayed in the browser window shown in Figure
14 72(n);

15 Figure 73(a) shows an inventive wireless display terminal capable of displaying
16 a screen image composed of video data simultaneously received from two or more
17 wireless sources;

18 Figure 73(b) is a block diagram illustrating an antenna node device for
19 conditioning a wireless signal for communication over a pre-existing hard wire
20 network; and

21 Figure 73(c) illustrates the use of the inventive antenna node devices in an office
22 environment.
23
24

25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

26 For purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention,
27 reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings and specific
28 language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no
29 limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended, there being contemplated
30 such alterations and modifications of the illustrated device, and such further applications
31 of the principles of the invention as disclosed herein, as would normally occur to one
32 skilled in the art to which the invention pertains.

33 The present invention pertains to a multimedia network that includes a computer
34 node having a computer display local channel generator 10 that creates a local television
35 channel of the computer monitor output (so that the computer can be displayed on any
36 TV connected to the home coaxial network). A computer-controlled universal remote
37 control signal generator generates device control signals that are carried over the coaxial
38 network (so that the computer can control any IR or rf controlled appliance, like TVs,
39 stereos and VCRs). A computer control signal receiver converts computer control

1 signals received from the coaxial network to computer input so that the user can control
2 the computer located in the bedroom while sitting in front of the television in the living
3 room.

4 A video device node having a device control signal emitter (for converting the
5 universal remote control signals received from the coaxial network to IR signals for
6 computer control of the TV, etc.). A computer control signal generator generates
7 computer control signals that are carried over the coaxial. The computer control signal
8 generator is controllable by a user's remote control input to enable remote control of the
9 computer, and through the computer, remote control of any devices at the video device
10 node or at other nodes, such as stereos, telephones, other VCRs and televisions, other
11 computers, video cameras and home automation modules.

12 Some of the features enabled by the present invention, and described herein, are
13 as follows. Through out this application, where appropriate, the term VCR is intended
14 to include any video recording devices, such as DVD, hard drive and other random
15 access and linear recording devices, and videotape is intended to include the various
16 recording media utilized by the same. Computer-enabled VCR tape and video recorder
17 content-indicating system. Computer-enabled VCR and video recorder commercial skip
18 recording system. Computer-enabled commercial rebound (used while channel surfing,
19 automatically returns viewer to the channel or origin after an elapsed time corresponding
20 to a commercial break). A TV autopilot system allows the computer to control the TV
21 automatically depending on the learned viewing habits of the user. A computer-
22 enhanced phone system. Computer-enabled TV content and viewing duration parental
23 controls. Home security/child monitor (computer automatically turns on selected TV(s)
24 and displays person at door or baby crying). Throughout-home reference system (e.g.,
25 ask the computer to look up "Thomas Edison" and view a multimedia display at any
26 TV). Internet-based alerts (computer automatically turns on (if necessary) selected
27 TV(s) and displays current stock quotes, weather bulletins, traffic conditions, etc.).
28 Computer-enabled TV alarm clock, sleep timer, etc. Email priority filter and automatic
29 alert system. Computer-enabled individualized viewer preferences with favorite
30 channels, program filtering, automatic show suggestion, automatic VCR control for
31 recording for each member of the household. Home and work scheduling system with
32 voice interaction. Multiple screen PIP on any TV. In-home video intercom. Internet-
33 based video phone from any TV. VCR tape editing and duplicating system remote
34 control code learning system (lets the computer learn the remote control code pattern for
35 any networked device, greatly simplifies initialization).

36 The present invention is an effective and efficient means for putting computer-
37 generated video output onto a local television channel carried on a pre-existing
38 multimedia network (such as a coaxial cable network), controlling the computer
39 remotely by signals sent over the multimedia network, and controlling televisions,

1 VCRs, stereos and related devices connected to the network via control signals
2 generated in response to software instructions running on the computer. The present
3 invention is comprised of a multimedia network that includes a modular system (one
4 that has a basic configuration that can be built upon to add functionality) that is easy to
5 install into the pre-existing home cable television network, or that can be included in
6 wiring of a new construction.

7 In its basic form, the system lets any TV in the house act as a computer monitor,
8 and allows the computer to control video devices such as TVs, VCRs, security cameras
9 and cable set top boxes; audio devices such as stereos, CD players, telephone systems;
10 and home automation systems, etc., located anywhere in the house. The output of any
11 video device, audio device or computer on the multimedia network can be made
12 available on any device on the network that is capable of using the output. For
13 example, the TV in the bedroom can be used as a monitor to display Internet content
14 and email messages received by the computer in the home office. The computer in the
15 home office can be used to control the recording of a television program using the VCR
16 in the living room. The stereo in the living room can be controlled from the bedroom
17 via remote control signals received by and generated by the computer, and CDs played
18 through the television speakers. A CD-ROM computer game can be displayed on the
19 living room TV and played by a user in the living room.

20 In accordance with some of the features described herein, when a user chooses
21 a television channel to view, rather than switching the television to that channel the
22 computer generates remote control signals that automatically switches the TV to receive
23 the output generated by the computer. At the same time, the computer controls a TV
24 tuner associated with it to tune in the user's selected channel, and opens a video
25 window that displays this channel. This video window, along with control windows,
26 are mixed into the computer display output signal, and this output signal is converted
27 into the local channel that is displayed on the user's TV. To enable picture-in-a-picture
28 display capabilities, the computer tunes in a second television channel using a second
29 TV tuner associated with it and opens a second video window displayed along side the
30 first video window. A third, or more, PIP windows can be opened in a similar
31 manner.

32 The size and shape of the video windows are automatically controlled via
33 software instructions to enable the viewing of multiple PIP windows without missing
34 any portion of the displayed programs or other video content. Alternatively, the PIP
35 windows can be overlaid on top of each other in the manner of traditional television PIP
36 displays.

37 More features of the inventive system include an in-home video intercom, TV
38 speaker phone with caller-id, Internet video phone on any TV or computer, and
39 meaningful home automation capabilities. In accordance with the present invention,

1 local television channels are created to carry video, audio, analog and digital data on the
2 home coaxial network. For example, the local channels carry the video output of a
3 computer from a computer node, and the video output of a video or audio device, such
4 as a VCR or cable box, from a video device node. The video devices are remotely
5 controlled by the computer through dc signals carried over the co-axial network. The
6 dc signals are generated at the computer node under the control of the computer and
7 then injected onto the coaxial network. At the video device node, the dc signal is
8 filtered out and used to generate an IR pulse train for controlling the VCR, cable box,
9 stereo system and/or TV. The computer is remotely controlled from the video device
10 node using an IR remote controller or IR wireless keyboard. The IR signals are
11 converted to dc pulses and injected onto the coaxial network at the video device node
12 and the dc pulses are converted to IR pulses at the computer node. The computer is
13 controlled through an IR receiver connected to the keyboard or other port. In an
14 addressable configuration of the inventive system, each IR emitter that controls a device
15 is connected to the dc control signals through an addressable control unit. For example,
16 before a control signal is generated by the computer, an addressable control circuit dc
17 pulse train is generated. Each addressable control unit is deactivated until it receives the
18 correct addressable control circuit pulse train, and it then made active. When an
19 addressable control unit is active it passes the next dc pulse train (the device control
20 signal) to its IR emitter for controlling a particular video device. To determine from
21 which device node the computer control signals are coming from, the addressable
22 control unit is used to send an address-identifying pulse train to the computer over the
23 network. The computer then knows from where the control signals originate (important
24 for features like the in-home video intercom and computer multitasking by two
25 simultaneous users).

26 In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, the local channels are
27 carried by carrier frequencies that have been allocated as the television channel
28 frequency spectrum. For channel efficiency, and to make set-up easy for the user, a
29 selectable channel blocker is put onto the home co-axial network at the location of the
30 cable provider source. This selectable channel blocker is controllable by the computer
31 to selectively filter out the carrier frequency of the selected TV channels. The TV
32 channels that are available for becoming local television channels are determined by
33 running a set-up procedure in which the computer (with an installed TV tuner card)
34 steps through each channel and determines which channels are unused by the cable
35 system provider. Once the available local channels are determined, the selectable
36 channel blocker is controlled to filter out one channel for the output of each device on
37 the network that will be made available via a generated local television channel. When
38 a new module is added to the network, it outputs an address-initializing signal until it is
39 recognized by the computer and assigned its own address. If the module includes a

1 local channel generator, another available TV channel is selected from those that were
2 determined to be available and is filtered by the selectable channel blocker. The carrier
3 frequency of that new filtered channel is assigned to the new local channel generator
4 and it is set to modulate the video output of a connected device to the new local channel.
5 Alternatively, it is possible to just filter all channels above a certain frequency, for
6 example, in a cable system that only goes up to channel 75, a low pass filter for
7 channels 2-75 would be all that is needed. The selectable channel blocker is preferred in
8 terms of effectiveness since it will be adaptable to any cable system, and changes to the
9 available channels can be accommodated by re-initializing the system.

10 Figure 1 shows a block diagram of the basic configuration of the inventive
11 multimedia network. In accordance with this configuration of the invention, at least one
12 computer node and at least one video device node is distributed on the multimedia
13 network. As discussed in more detail herein, the data transferred over the inventive
14 multimedia network may include analog, digital, or a combination of analog and digital
15 data. The direction of the data transfer may be bi-directional so that a device located at a
16 computer node can send and receive data, for example, to and from a device located at a
17 video device node.

18 In accordance with the present invention, the computer node includes a
19 computer display local channel generating means 10, for generating a local television
20 channel. The local television channel contains a video output signal that is generated by
21 a computer located at the computer node. Generally, the computer display output signal
22 is used to drive the display monitor associated with the computer. However, in
23 accordance with the present invention, the display of the computer is converted to a
24 local channel that is effective for allowing the displaying of video data generated by the
25 computer on an ordinary television set located on the inventive home media network.
26 The ordinary television may be located at a remote room in the home from the location
27 of the computer. For example, the computer may be located in a home office or master
28 bedroom, while the television that is used to display the computer video data is located
29 in a family room or another bedroom.

30 The computer node also includes device control signal generating means 16 that
31 are controllable by the computer for generating device control signals. These device
32 control signals are transferable over the multimedia network and are effective to
33 selectively control at least one video device located remotely from the computer on the
34 multimedia network. The computer also includes computer control receiving means 12
35 for receiving computer control signals transferred over the multimedia network from,
36 for example, a user input device 18 being used to control the remotely located computer
37 while viewing the computer generated video information on the local television.

38 The inventive multimedia network also includes one or more video device nodes
39 at which is located, for example, a conventional VCR, DVD player, television, and/or

1 cable television set top box. The video device node includes device control signal
2 emitting means 14 for receiving the control signals transferred over the multimedia
3 network from the computer node.

4 The device control signal emitting means 14 emits video device control signals
5 that are effective to control a video device located on the multimedia network remotely
6 from the computer. Thus, the video device can be remotely controlled by the computer.
7 The video device node also includes computer control signal generating means 15. The
8 computer control signal generating means 15 is controllable by a user input device 18,
9 such as a wireless keyboard or remote control, the computer control signal generating
10 means 15 generates the computer control signals that are transferred over the whole
11 multimedia network so that the computer can be remotely controlled in response to user
12 input.

13 Thus, in accordance with the present invention, a multimedia network is
14 provided that allows an ordinary television to act as a computer monitor for a computer
15 that is located remotely from the television. The computer also can control a remote
16 video device located where the television is located. As will be discussed in more detail
17 herein, the inventive multimedia network effectively allows the ordinary video devices,
18 such as set up boxes, television, and VCRs already existing in the home to become
19 computer enabled. This feature of the multimedia network unlocks the door for many
20 useful and novel computer assisted features, without requiring a homeowner to reinvest
21 in expensive video devices.

22 Furthermore, the video device nodes of the inventive multimedia network can
23 include video device local channel generating means 20 for generating a video device
24 local television channel that contains the video output of at least one of the video devices
25 located at the video device node. As will be discussed in more detail herein, the
26 inventive multimedia network enables ordinary and pre-existing video devices, such as
27 television, VCRs, and set up boxes to be used for previously impossible enhanced
28 multimedia viewing experiences.

29 In Figure 2(a) is a block diagram showing an inventive computer-enabled VCR
30 system. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, a conventional pre-existing
31 VCR is controlled under the direction of an external microprocessor 22 so that the VCR
32 is imparted with enhanced video recording and playback capabilities. An example of
33 these enhanced recording and playback capabilities is discussed herein with reference to
34 Figures 4(a), and (b), wherein the VCR is controlled by the microprocessor 22 to
35 selectively record and playback information that enables a user to determine the contents
36 recorded on the VCR tape.

37 As shown in Figure 2(a), the inventive computer-enabled VCR system includes
38 a microprocessor 22 that has associated with it some type of storage 24 device, such as
39 RAM, hard drive, or the like. The microprocessor 22 controls a data signal generator

1 26 that is used to generate data signals that are recordable on a VCR tape inserted in the
2 VCR, or that are recordable on the recording medium of a video recording device. The
3 microprocessor 22 receives input from a data signal detector 28, which receives the
4 recorded data signals during the playback of the VCR tape. A universal remote control
5 signal generator, such as that typically found in universal-type remote controllers such
6 as "Four-in-One" remote control available from Radio Shack, Catalog No. 15-1911A,
7 so that most popular makes and models of VCRs and other video devices can be easily
8 controlled. An infra red emitter connected to the universal remote control signal
9 generator is placed in the location of the infra red detector of the VCR so that the infra
10 red control signals generated through the control of the microprocessor 22 can be used
11 to control the VCR.

12 Figure 2(b) is a block diagram showing a configuration of the inventive
13 VCR/Internet appliance. In this case, an external stand-alone VCR control sub-system,
14 as described above with reference to Figure 2(a), may be provided, or the components
15 described herein may be incorporated in the VCR itself. In accordance with this
16 configuration, a microprocessor 22 is used to control the operation of a storage 24
17 device, a modem, a video driver, and a VCR control circuit. The VCR control circuit is
18 used to control a VCR control system, such as an ordinary VCR. The VCR's output is
19 displayed on a TV. The video driver controlled by the microprocessor 22 enables the
20 display of Internet content obtained through the modem. The storage 24 device is
21 provide so that this Internet content can be cached to improve the performance of the
22 system.

23 Figure 2(c) is a block diagram showing a multiple node wireless multimedia
24 network in accordance with the present invention. In this case, location1 represents a
25 computer node, and location2 and location3 represent video device nodes, as described
26 in Figure 1. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, a wireless transceiver 32 at
27 each node is used to transfer data between the devices and components on the
28 multimedia network.

29 As shown in Figure 2(c), the multimedia network may be constructed of nodes
30 that are in communication with each other through the use of radio frequency signals
31 transmitted via wireless transceivers 32. Alternatively, as described in detail herein, the
32 multimedia network may consist of computer, video device and device control nodes
33 that communicate with each other over coaxial, phone line, shielded cable, electrical
34 wiring, fiber optic, IR, or other data transfer networks or any combination thereof.

35 Figure 2(d) is a block diagram showing a DVD recorder system controlled over
36 the inventive multimedia network in accordance with the present invention;

37 Figure 2(e) is a block diagram showing a computer-enabled DVD or random
38 access recorder system in accordance with the present invention.

39 Figure 2(f) is a block diagram showing a DVD/RAM/Internet appliance.

1 Figure 2(g) illustrates a variety of random access memory configurations for a
2 random access video recorder in accordance with the present invention.

3 One of the features that make the inventive system particularly useful is a
4 content-indicating recording system for recording and displaying content-indicating
5 information to and from a videotape or other video storage 24 medium. In accordance
6 with this aspect of the invention, television program information is received through a
7 computer (networked system) or microprocessor 22 (stand-alone system) from the
8 Internet or an electronic programming guide. The program information is converted
9 into a recordable signal (such as an audible modem signal), and transferred over the
10 multimedia network from the computer node to the video device node. A VCR at the
11 video device node is controlled to record the recordable signal as an information header
12 located at the beginning of a videotape, or as described herein, as information encoded
13 on the videotape that corresponds to data stored on the computer or other remote storage
14 24 device. Preferably, the recordable signal is an HTML-type document, with
15 hyperlinks that correspond to the television programs recorded on the videotape. When
16 a videotape with the recorded information header is played back, the HTML file is
17 uploaded from the VCR to the computer for display on a TV located at the video device
18 node (via the computer local channel). The video recorder itself may be configured to
19 generate the HTML display directly. The HTML document can include links to the
20 Internet for related content relevant to the recorded show, suggestion of similar shows,
21 etc. By activating one of the HTML's hyperlinks, the user selects a recorded TV show
22 to watch. The computer receives the selection and controls the VCR to cue up the
23 selected recorded TV show and begin playback. Using a determined user-profile
24 (determined by a demographic questionnaire and/or by a data base of the TV viewing,
25 movie renting and Internet usage habits of the household), the computer can be used to
26 predict what shows the user might be interested in, and automatically control the VCR
27 to record these shows. In this case, an Internet-based service can be provided that
28 creates programming and other content suggestions that correspond with a statistical
29 analysis of the user-profile.

30 Figure 3(a) is a block diagram of an inventive multimedia network that enables,
31 among other things, the indicating of content recorded on a videotape. In accordance
32 with this configuration of the inventive multimedia network, content information
33 determining means 34 is provided for determining content-indicating information that
34 corresponds to the content recorded on, or to be recorded on, a videotape. The content
35 may include, for example, television programs that are selected by the user for
36 recording through the use of an electronic programming guide or through access to an
37 Internet website. The electronic programming guide or the Internet website will
38 typically include a programming grid that indicates what the television programs are the
39 are available for viewing on a cable or broadcast television system. In addition, the

1 inventive multimedia network can be used to provide for the recording of television
2 programs based on a learned or pre-registered view profile. In the case of a pre-
3 registered viewer profile, the user initializes the system by filling out a number of fields
4 that correspond to television program viewing preferences. These fields are then used
5 to determine what future television program or Internet content the particular viewer is
6 most likely to be interested in, and the VCR recorder is appropriately controlled to
7 record these types of television programs and/or bookmarks are generated
8 corresponding to the Internet content. The learned viewer profile may be obtained
9 separately or in conjunction with the registered viewer profile, by monitoring or
10 otherwise keeping track of the television programs a viewer watches over time.

11 Thus, the content information determining means 34 obtains the content-
12 indicating information for a particular television show, such as the show title, channel,
13 date, time and a brief description of the show. This content-indicating information can
14 be downloaded from the Internet, obtained from an electronic programming guide,
15 entered in by the user or copied from a removable medium such as a floppy disk.
16 Converting means 36 are provided for converting the detected content-indicating
17 information into a recordable content signal. The Converting means 36 may be, for
18 example, software running on a conventional personal computer. For example, if the
19 content-indicating information is downloaded from the Internet, it can be easily
20 incorporated into an HTML document that is saved as an HTML file. This HTML file
21 can then be converted into a transmissible signal as is typically done when uploading
22 such an HTML document to the Internet through the use of a modem. However, in
23 this case, the HTML document is uploaded for recording on a videotape or other
24 recording medium rather than for storage 24 on a server connected to the Internet.
25 Generating means is provided for generating a recordable information signal for
26 recording on the videotape. The recordable information signal includes the recordable
27 content signal corresponding to the content-indicating information. Transferring means
28 40 is provided for transferring the recordable information signal to a recording head of a
29 videotape recorder. For example, the information signal can be an audio signal, such as
30 modem-like signal that converts an HTML file into a transferable audio signal. The
31 audio signal is put onto the multimedia network through an appropriate connection so
32 that it can be recorded onto the VCR tape in the video recorder located at the video
33 device node under the control of the computer located at the computer node.

34 Figure 3(b) is a block diagram of the inventive multimedia network including
35 the inventive video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a
36 videotape. The configurations of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figures
37 3(a) and 3(b) also include Video device controlling means 42 for controlling the
38 videotape recorder to record the recordable information. The Video device controlling
39 means 42 may be, for example, a universal remote control signal generator that is

1 controllable by the computer located at the computer node of the inventive multimedia
2 network. The VCR located at the video device node can be remotely controlled by the
3 computer in the appropriate manner to effect the recording of the information signal.
4 Cue information determining means 44 is provided for determining control cue
5 information for automatically controlling a videotape recorder in accordance with the
6 determined content-indicating information. The control cue information includes
7 indications such as detectable tones that are recorded as part of the audio signal on the
8 videotape to indicate control cues such "record start-header" signal, "record end-header"
9 signal, and the like (described in more detail herein). The generating means includes
10 recordable Cue signal generating means 46 for generating the recordable information
11 signal including the recordable cue signal that corresponds to the control cue
12 information. Thus, the recordable information signal includes the recordable content
13 signal that carries the content-indicating information, and the recordable cue signal that
14 carries the control cue information. The Video device controlling means 42 controls a
15 device control signal generating means 16 that generates a control signal that is
16 transferred via the Transferring means 40 over the multimedia network to a device
17 control signal emitting means 14. For example, in the case of universal remote control
18 signals, a dc signal may be generated under the control of the computer or
19 microprocessor 22 through the Video device controlling means 42 and the device
20 control signal generating means 16 (described in more detail below.) The various
21 computer and device control signals may be generated directly as wireless rf signals, or
22 may be converted from ir to rf signals as needed, depending on the particular
23 configuration of the modules making up the inventive network. The control signal
24 contains the appropriate information for controlling a particular VCR connected to the
25 inventive multimedia network. For example, in the case of a dc signal transmitted over a
26 hard wire network, the dc pulse information is transferred through the multimedia
27 network and is received by the device control signal emitting means 14. The device
28 control signal emitting means 14 emits the device control signals for automatically
29 controlling the videotape recorder depending on the control cue information.

30 The information signal that is recorded on the videotape contains content-
31 indicating information and control cue information so that the videotape recorder can be
32 appropriately controlled to "upload" the content-indicating information (HTML data)
33 back to the microprocessor 22 so that it can be detected and the content of the videotape
34 displayed. The recordable information signal is played back and transferred by the
35 Transferring means 40 to an information signal detecting means 68 for detecting the
36 content-indicating information and the control cue information so that a representation
37 of the content recorded on the videotape can be displayed, and so that the videotape
38 recorder can be appropriately controlled. The recordable content signal and the
39 recordable cue signal are combined through combining means 48 into the recordable

1 information signal, such as an audio signal, so that this information signal can be
2 transferred over the inventive multimedia network from the computer or microprocessor
3 22 to the VCR and from the VCR back to the computer or microprocessor 22. The
4 detecting means includes means for detecting control cue information from the
5 information signal.

6 As shown in Figure 3(c) in accordance with the present invention, a multimedia
7 network is provided for enabling the viewing of computer-generated data on any
8 television or audio and/or video display device connected to the multimedia network.
9 The multimedia network may be comprised of a pre-existing system such as a hard
10 wired coaxial television cable network. The inventive multimedia network includes a
11 computer node at which is located a general purpose personal computer, workstation or
12 the like, or a function-specific microprocessor 22 running software dedicated to the
13 functions described herein. The computer node includes computer display local channel
14 generating means for receiving the video output of the computer and generating a
15 computer display local television channel. The computer display local television
16 channel contains a video output signal corresponding to a computer display output
17 signal generated by the computer at the computer node. The computer display local
18 television channel is essentially a new television channel that can be tuned in by any
19 video or audio device in communication with the multimedia network. This local
20 television channel is thus effective for allowing the displaying of video data generated
21 by the computer on a television located on the multimedia network remotely from the
22 computer.

23 The computer node also includes device control signal generating means 16
24 controllable by the computer for generating device control signals transferable over the
25 multimedia network and effective to selectively control at least one video device, such
26 as a VCR, TV or set top box, located on the multimedia network remotely from the
27 computer. The computer node further includes computer control signal receiving means
28 12 for receiving computer control signals transferred over the multimedia network.
29 These computer control signals allow the computer located at the computer node to be
30 controlled by a user located remotely at a video device node. The video device node
31 includes device control signal emitting means 14 for receiving the device control signals
32 and for emitting video device control signals effective for controlling the video device
33 located on the multimedia network remotely from the computer. Thus, the video
34 device can be remotely controlled by the computer. The video device node further
35 includes computer control signal generating means 15 controllable by a user input
36 device 18 for generating computer control signals transferable over the multimedia
37 network. The computer control signals are generated in response to user input received
38 from, preferably, a wireless input device such as an IR or rf remote control or
39 keyboard. The user input received at the device node is converted, if necessary, into

1 signals that are carried via the multimedia network to the computer control signal
2 receiving means 12 located at the computer node. The computer control signal
3 receiving means 12 is in communication with the computer (such as through the
4 keyboard or mouse port) so that the computer can be remotely controlled in response to
5 the user input.

6 In accordance with the present invention, video device local channel generating
7 means 20 generates a video device local television channel containing the video
8 (including audio) output signal of the at least one video device located at a video device
9 node on the multimedia network. The multimedia network can include multiple video
10 devices at each of multiple video device nodes. For example, a satellite set top box in
11 the living room of the house can be provided at one video device node, and its output
12 put onto the multimedia network as a new television channel that can be tuned in by a
13 television located in another room at another video device node. For example, the
14 control of the satellite set top box is accomplished via control signals that originate as IR
15 pulsed from a user-controlled remote control at the video device node of the television.
16 These control signals are converted into dc signals and get passed via the coaxial
17 network to the computer node where they are converted (if necessary) into signals that
18 control the computer, and then, under the control of the computer, appropriate control
19 signals are converted into dc signal and passed (again on the network) to the video
20 device node of the satellite set top box where a device control signal emitter converts the
21 signals again (this time into IR) and emits the control signals necessary to appropriately
22 control the satellite set top box according to the user's instructions. Or, the IR signals
23 can be converted into wireless rf signals for transmission.

24 To enable enhanced functionality, such as in-house intercom and speaker phone
25 systems, voice activation and user identification, etc., a microphone input 50 is located
26 at a location on the multimedia network for receiving microphone signals. The input of
27 the microphone signals at a particular location (such as at a computer or device node, or
28 anywhere connected to the multimedia network) is selected by Selecting means, such as
29 a relay circuit in the case of a stand-alone device or through software control in the case
30 of a microprocessor 22 or computer. Adding means 54, which may simply be a
31 connection to the network controlled through the selecting means, adds the selected
32 input of the microphone signals to the multimedia network. By this construction, a user
33 can communicate through spoken words over the multimedia network. In the case of
34 an in-home intercom system, means are provided for generating audible sound signals
35 corresponding to the selected input of the microphone signals at a location on the
36 multimedia network remote from the location of the at least one microphone input 50
37 receiving the selected input of the microphone signals. For example, the microphone
38 input 50 that includes the voice of a user in one room can be carried over the multimedia
39 network to the speakers of a television at a device node in another room where a second

1 user is located. The computer at the computer node can be used to control the various
2 device to enable the two way communication between users at different rooms of a
3 house that includes the inventive multimedia network.

4 To enable an in-home video intercom system, a camera input 56 is provided
5 located at a location on the multimedia network for receiving video camera signals. The
6 input of the video camera signals is selected by selecting means, and at least one of the
7 computer display local television channel generating means and the video device local
8 television channel generating means includes means for including the selected input of
9 the microphone signals and the selected input of the video camera signals in the
10 corresponding computer display local television channel and the video device local
11 television channel. Using this construction, a two-way in-home video intercom is
12 provided that utilizes the televisions and coaxial cable television network already in
13 place in many homes. Of course, as with many of the embodiments shown herein, the
14 transmission of video, audio, control signals and data can be accomplished via wireless
15 transmissions, through the electrical wiring, phone lines, or other wired network, or
16 through a combination of any of these signal transmission mechanisms.

17 A further enhancement feature of the inventive multimedia network is a system
18 for providing a speaker phone system usable through-out the house. In this case,
19 means is provided for connecting the selected input of the microphone signals to a pre-
20 existing telephone system, and the speakers of a device located at or near the location of
21 the microphone can be used to provide the audio of a phone conversation. To let the
22 user know a phone call is coming in, means for notifying the existence of a received
23 telephone call on at least one display connected to the multimedia system. For example,
24 when a phone call is detected on the phone system, the computer at the computer node
25 can tune its television software to the same channel as the television that the user is
26 watching, and then generate a "phone call" message that is displayed along with the
27 television program. The computer display local television channel includes the
28 television program and the phone call message. The television is controlled via the
29 computer to tune into the computer display local television channel so that the phone
30 message is displayed on the television along with the TV show that the user is currently
31 viewing. Means are provided for answering the received telephone call and selecting
32 the input of the microphone signals received by the Microphone input 50. For example,
33 a voice command or a button on the remote control can be used to answer the call. To
34 further enhance the system, a caller-ID for determining a telephone number of a
35 received telephone call can be included in the system along with means for displaying
36 the determined telephone number on the television. For example, the phone number can
37 be included along with the phone call message.

38 In a voice-recognition configuration of the inventive multimedia network, the
39 system continuously "listens" via distributed microphones for a particular start-system

1 word or phrase, such as a name given to the system. A separate dedicated
2 microprocessor 22 can be provided (for example, at each node or just a single one at
3 either a particular computer or device node) that "listens" for this start-system phrase.
4 Once received, the address of the receiving node is used by an addressable controller to
5 locate the source of the start-system input. Alternatively, the input of each of the
6 distributed microphones can be fed to a central or main computer or microprocessor 22
7 that awaits the reception of the start-system input. As another alternative, each
8 microphone can be configured to include an identifying signal such as a pulse or
9 frequency so that the location of the user can be determined.

10 The start-system input can be detected using voice recognition software running
11 in the background of the main computer, or running on the dedicated microprocessor
12 22. Once the start-system input is received, the computer knows (via software
13 instructions) that the next voice command is directed at it, and is not just part of the
14 ambient conversation, television or noises. To make the system more efficient at
15 recognizing the start-system input, the voice pattern of the particular user or users of the
16 system (members of the household) can be learned through well-know voice
17 recognition techniques so that if, for example, a television program produces the same
18 words as the start-input, it will not cause the computer to anticipate a voice command.
19 Alternatively, the system can be configured through software (or "hard wired") so that
20 the start-system input must be followed by predetermined voice commands within a
21 specified time duration, or else the computer will ignore the start-system input.

22 As an example, the system can be configured so that the following start-system
23 input: "hello computer" followed within a 2 second duration by "display phone list",
24 results in the following actions: 1) upon receiving the start-system input "hello
25 computer" at a particular device node, the address of the device node where the
26 microphone that inputs the start-system input is located is received by the addressable
27 controller and the location of the user is determined; 2) the computer at the computer
28 node is "told" (via software instructions) that if a recognized voice command is received
29 within 2 seconds, it should perform the requested command; 3) since the recognized
30 voice command "display phone list" is received within the allowed duration, the
31 computer will perform the requested command; 4) to perform the requested command,
32 the computer in this example will open a "phone list" file stored on its hard drive, and
33 then make sure that the television or display at the particular device node is set to
34 display the computer video output (that is, if it is tuned to the computer display local
35 channel). If another recognized voice command inputted from the same microphone is
36 received within an allowed-for duration (in this case, perhaps 15 seconds to allow the
37 phone list to be displayed on the user's television and the user to peruse it), then that
38 command is performed. For example, after perusing the phone list the user might issue
39 the recognized voice command "call Jeff G.", which results in the computer finding Jeff

1 G's phone number from the phone list, connecting the microphone at the user's location
2 to the home phone system and dialing the number. If the 15 seconds passes without a
3 command, the computer can be programmed to ask (via synthesized voice outputted to
4 the television speakers, "would you like me to dial a number?." If an appropriate voice
5 command is received, the computer will perform the requested operation. If not, the
6 system must be re-started by the start-system input ("hello computer").

7 To enable the exchange of data between the user and the Internet at any
8 television connected to the inventive multimedia network, means is provided for
9 connecting to the Internet and downloading Internet data. For example, a modem can
10 be included in a device located at one of the computer or video device nodes. Internet
11 video output signal generating means 58 receives the Internet data and generates an
12 Internet video signal dependent thereon (along the lines of the recently introduced
13 product called WebTV).

14 Recently, relatively high speed cable modems have become available that allow
15 set top boxes, computers or other devices to connect to the Internet via the cable
16 television network. However, in the conventional configuration used with these cable
17 modems, the Internet is displayed only on the device connected to it. For example, in
18 the case of a set top box, computer or Internet appliance cable modem connection, the
19 video output containing the Internet web pages is displayed only on a single connected
20 display device. Conventionally, a viewer could only control the access to the Internet
21 and view the downloaded web pages from the connected display device. However, in
22 accordance with the present invention, the device local channel generating means
23 includes means for generating the video device local television signal containing the
24 Internet video output signal data. Thus, this local television channel can be tuned into
25 by any television or display device connected to the inventive multimedia network.
26 Further, the access to the Internet can be controlled from the location of the television
27 through the use of control signal generating and detecting means as described herein.

28 The computer at the computer node of the inventive multimedia network can
29 have access to the Internet and other on-line networks via means for connecting the
30 computer to the Internet and downloading Internet data. For example, the computer
31 may be configured with an internal modem, and/or an external modem may be used.
32 The internal modem may be used for a connection to the Internet via the telephone lines,
33 and, if provided, the external modem may be a cable or wireless modem, or other
34 Internet data transfer device. The computer display local channel generating means
35 includes means for generating the computer display local television signal containing the
36 Internet video output signal data. In a basic version, the Internet video output is just the
37 computer display output that normally is displayed on a computer monitor in direct
38 connection with the computer. However, in accordance with the inventive multimedia
39 network the computer display output is converted into a local television channel so that

1 any display connected to the network can tune in the channel and display the Internet
2 video output.

3 In the case of a dual modem system, two users located at two different nodes of
4 the inventive multimedia network can be accommodated with an individual connection
5 to the Internet. If both connections are made through the same computer, the computer
6 can be configured and controlled so that it can drive multiple monitors. Each monitor
7 output can be converted into its own computer display local television channel, and each
8 user tunes the TV or display device located at their particular node to one of the
9 channels. The computer can be controlled in a multitasking manner so that each user is
10 able to access the Internet (or use, for example, word processing software or other
11 applications) on an individualized basis. The addressability of the inventive system
12 will allow the detection of computer control signals and appropriate control of the
13 computer depending on the desires of each user. In this case, the computer operates
14 much like a mainframe system, with the display and input device at the nodes acting as
15 "dummy" terminal. As is shown in Figures 3(k) and 3(l), a single modem or internet
16 connection can be used by two or more users of the inventive multimedia network. In
17 this case, a single modem and a single computer are used to connect with an Internet
18 service provider. The computer is set to display on multiple monitors, allowing
19 separate local channels to be generated for each monitor output. Two or more users
20 each access the local channel (or the computer monitor located at the computer) to view
21 a respective monitor output. If two or more users are using the single modem/computer
22 for access to the Internet, each of their respective monitors will show a different web
23 browser window. The web browser window could be generated through a single web
24 browser application, or two different web browser applications can be running
25 simultaneously on the single computer.

26 The present invention provides a method for indicating the content recorded on a
27 videotape and also provides a video recording system for recording content-indicating
28 information on a videotape. The videotape content-indicating features can be included
29 in the inventive multimedia network system, enabling a host of useful enhancement to
30 the multimedia viewing experience. For example, the content of television programs
31 recorded on a videotape can be determined from information stored on the videotape
32 itself. This information is generated, in accordance with a preferred embodiment, by a
33 computer located at a computer node and transferred over the multimedia network, such
34 as a pre-existing coaxial cable television network, for recording on a VCR located at a
35 video device node. The VCR is controlled via the computer in the manner described
36 herein so that the content-indicating information is included, along with control cue
37 signals, on the videotape. To determine the content of the videotape, the VCR is
38 controlled via the computer to playback the content-indicating information in accordance
39 with the control cue signals (which mark, among other things, the beginning and

1 ending of the recorded information signal that includes the content-indicating
2 information). In the preferred embodiment, the content-indicating information consists
3 of HTML code that includes hyperlinks for controlling the VCR to cue-up and playback
4 a selected recorded television show. The HTML code can be automatically generated
5 by inserting specific instructional code (such as fast forward time, play time, rewind
6 time, tape identification data, recorded content identification data, related links, etc.)
7 into a HTML document template. Further, portions the HTML document can be
8 downloaded from the Internet. For example, a website can contain the particulars of a
9 specific show that is to be or that has been recorded. This website may include
10 identifying content that is specifically formatted for inclusion with the content-indicating
11 HTML document. This identifying content (which may be text, graphics, java code,
12 etc.) can be downloaded from the internet when a show is selected for recording. This
13 identifying content may then be incorporated into the HTML document, or the
14 appropriate control signal information can be appended to an HTML document
15 generated in accordance with the identifying content, so that the VCR or video recorder
16 can be appropriately controlled to cue up the recorded show.

17 In accordance with the inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a
18 videotape, the content-indicating information is first determined corresponding to the
19 content recorded on, or to be recorded on, a videotape or video recorder. The
20 determined content-indicating information is converted into a recordable content signal,
21 and a recordable information signal is generated for recording on the videotape. The
22 recordable information signal includes the recordable content signal corresponding to
23 the content-indicating information. The recordable information signal is transferred,
24 either directly or over the inventive multimedia network, to a recording head of the
25 videotape recorder. The videotape recorder is controlled to record the recordable
26 information.

27 In the case of a preferred embodiment of the inventive multimedia network, the
28 device control signal generating means 16 is a universal remote control signal generator
29 that has been initialized to control the VCR located at the video device node. If
30 necessary, the output of the universal remote control signal generator is converted from
31 IR to dc or rf signals. The universal remote control signal generator is controlled by the
32 computer at the computer node and used to generate dc device control signals. The dc
33 device control signals are transmitted from the computer node to the video device node
34 over the coaxial cable television network. At the device node, the dc control signals are
35 received by the device control signal emitting means 14 and used to drive an IR emitter.
36 The IR emitter is placed so that the IR pulses are received by the IR detector of the
37 VCR. Usually, the IR detector of the VCR is provided by the manufacturer so that the
38 VCR can be controlled by the user via a hand-held remote controller. In accordance

1 with the present invention, this same remote control system of a conventional VCR is
2 utilized so that a remotely located computer can control the VCR.

3 In order to appropriately control the VCR during the later play-back of the
4 content-indicating signal and recorded content, control cue information is determined.
5 The control cue information may be an audible or inaudible tone signal that is recordable
6 on the VCR tape. The control cue information is used for automatically controlling the
7 videotape recorder. The recordable information signal is generated to include a
8 recordable control cue signal corresponding to the control cue information. This
9 recordable information signal thus includes both the content-indicating signal and the
10 control cue signal.

11 In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the content-indicating
12 information comprises HTML data. This HTML data corresponds to a web-like page
13 that is viewable by ordinary Internet browser software, or by custom software. The
14 web-like page includes hyperlinks to related Internet, intercast or removable media
15 content that pertains to the television programs or other content recorded on the
16 videotape. The hyperlinks are also used to provide user-input for the control of the
17 video recorder via the computer and inventive multimedia network. For example, the
18 hyperlink for a recorded TV program, program1, includes information that corresponds
19 to determining the location on the videotape of the beginning and ending of program1.
20 For example, the information may be the time it takes to fast forward to the beginning
21 of the program from the start of the tape (or other determined location on the tape), the
22 duration or counter-value of program1, the counter-value of the beginning and ending
23 of program1, a certain tone frequency or tone pulse that indicates the beginning and/or
24 ending of program1, a video signal that indicates the beginning and/or ending of
25 program1, etc.

26 Once the videotape has been recorded to include the information signal, the
27 content recorder on it can be determined and displayed for the user. The display can be
28 via the inventive multimedia network in which case the computer display local television
29 channel is tuned in by the TV (perhaps under the control of the computer in response to
30 user-input) and the web-like page display from the computer video output is shown on
31 the television. In this case, the video recorder is controlled to playback the recordable
32 information signal including the recordable content signal previously recorded on it.
33 The recordable information signal is transferred to an information signal detector and
34 the content-indicating information is detected from the recordable content signal so that
35 a representation of the content of television programs recorded on the videotape can be
36 displayed. In a preferred embodiment, the HTML data is transferred between the
37 computer and VCR using an appropriately controlled modem. Alternatively, the spk
38 and mic ports (or other data ports) of the computer can be used to input and output the
39 HTML data for recording and playback on the VCR. Since the recordable information

1 signal includes the recordable control cue signal, the control cue information is detected
2 (by detecting the tone frequency, pulse, video data or whatever the control cue
3 information is) for controlling the videotape recorder. The videotape recorder is
4 automatically controlled depending on the control cue information. For example, the
5 audio-in capabilities of a conventional computer can be used to receive the recorded
6 information signal. Frequency filtering software can be used detect the particular
7 frequency and/or pulse data of the control cue information. Alternatively, an external
8 audio filter circuit can be used, which detects the particular frequency and/or pulse data.

9 The HTML document can also be recorded as a video image stored on the
10 videotape. Each of the recorded shows can be designated with a particular page that is
11 stored as a frame, or multiple frames, of video data. The recorded content on the
12 videotape can be ascertained by scrolling through these frames, using for example, the
13 slow motion or frame by frame play capabilities of the VCR. The computer can keep
14 track of which page is being displayed, and in accordance with the content-indicating
15 information and information for the particular VCR model such as its fast forward tape
16 speed, knows how to control the VCR to cue up the selected program.

17 In accordance with the present invention, a video recording system for
18 recording content-indicating information on a videotape is provided. The inventive
19 system includes content determining means, such as computer software or a
20 microprocessor 22 circuit for controlling the connecting, selecting and downloading of
21 information, such as an HTML page containing television programming information
22 from a network, such as the Internet, or from an electronic programming guide from a
23 network, such as a cable television network, or from a removable medium such as a
24 floppy disk. The content determining means may also be configured for allowing a user
25 to manually input the determined content, to allow for, for example, the determining of
26 content pertaining to a camcorder recording. The content determining means determines
27 content-indicating information corresponding to the content recorded on or to be
28 recorded on a videotape. For example, in the case of an HTML page, a user selects
29 from the downloaded HTML page data about a particular television show that is to be
30 recorded. This data determines such content-indicating information as a show
31 description, date, channel and time that it will be aired.

32 Converting means 36 converts the determined content-indicating information into
33 recordable content data. The converting means 36 may be, for example, a computer
34 modem, or computer software or a microprocessor 22 circuit that converts the HTML
35 page data into recordable content data. The recordable content data may be an audible
36 signal that can be outputted from a speaker port, and/or a video signal that can be
37 outputted from a video port. The recordable content data can be converted into any
38 analog or digital data that can be recorded on a videotape. Stated otherwise, the
39 converting means 36 takes the HTML page data (which can be viewed using browser

1 software, for example, on a computer monitor) and converts it into data that can be
2 recorded on a videotape. In the case of the HTML page data, the Converting means 36
3 may be a microprocessor 22 circuit or software controlling a computer to parse or select
4 the content-indicating information and creating an HTML page that contains the content-
5 indicating information, the recordable content data is included in this created HTML
6 page.

7 Generating means generates a recordable information signal for recording on the
8 videotape. The generating means includes content signal generating means for
9 generating a recordable content signal corresponding to the recordable content data.
10 The generating means may be, for example, a microprocessor 22 circuit or software for
11 controlling a computer to generate an audible modem-like signal that contains the
12 created HTML page, in the case of a computer, the computer's speaker port and sound
13 capabilities can be used to generate the recordable information signal, or a conventional
14 modem or modem-like device can be controlled by a microprocessor 22 circuit or
15 computer so that the created HTML page is modulated into a recordable signal.

16 Transferring means 40 transfers the recordable information signal to a videotape
17 recorder. In the case of a home coaxial cable television network, the transferring means
18 40 includes a connection to the coaxial network. In the case of, for example, of the
19 wireless transfer of the recordable information signal, the transferring means 40
20 includes a rf or IR transmitter. If necessary for transferring the data, the generated
21 recordable information signal may have to be converted into a suitable signal form, such
22 as an rf signal, that can be transmitted wirelessly from the transmitter to a remote
23 receiver.

24 Video device controlling means 42 controls the videotape recorder to record the
25 recordable information signal. The video device controlling means 42 may be a
26 microprocessor 22 circuit or software controlling a computer to generate the appropriate
27 control signals that effect the recording via the video recorder. As described herein,
28 device control signal generating means 16 and device control signal emitting means 14
29 can be utilized to generate the appropriate control signals that are transferred over the
30 multimedia network (for example as wireless rf signals or dc signals that can be
31 transferred over the coaxial network) and then emitted as IR remote control signals that
32 control the videotape recorder to record the recordable information signal.

33 Cue determining means controls control cue information for automatically
34 controlling a videotape recorder. A microprocessor 22 circuit or software controlling a
35 computer can be utilized to determine the control cue information. The control cue
36 information, as described in the flow charts below, is used to determine where on the
37 videotape the program content and the content-indicating information is located. The
38 generating means includes means for generating the recordable information signal
39 including cue signal generating means 46 for generating a recordable control cue signal

1 corresponding to the control cue information. The recordable control cue signal may
2 be, for example tones or video data can be recorded on the videotape and later detected
3 so that the location on the tape of the program content and the content-indicating
4 information can be determined during playback. The cue signal generating means 46
5 may be, for example, a tone signal generator (such as a modem or speaker driving
6 circuit) or video signal generator (such as a video driver circuit) that is controlled by a
7 microprocessor 22 circuit or software controlling a computer so that the appropriate
8 control cue signals are generated at the appropriate times. Combining means 48
9 combines the recordable content signal with the recordable cue signal to generate the
10 recordable information signal. The Combining means 48 may be, for example, a
11 microprocessor 22 circuit or software for controlling a computer so that the recordable
12 content signal is generated with the appropriate control cue signal.

13 The video device controlling means 42 includes playback controlling means for
14 controlling the video recorder to playback the recordable information signal including
15 the recordable content signal previously recorded on the videotape. Detecting means
16 detects the content-indicating information from the recordable information signal so that
17 an indication of the recorded content of the videotape can be displayed. The
18 transferring means 40 includes means for transferring the recordable information signal
19 to an Information signal detecting means 68.

20 The detecting means includes means for detecting control cue information from
21 the recordable information signal. For example, a frequency filter (either hardware,
22 software or both) may be utilized to determine the specific tone or video frequency of
23 the recorded control cue signal. Device control signal emitting means 14 emits device
24 control signals for automatically controlling the videotape recorder depending on the
25 control cue information under the control of the computer.

26 Figure 3(d) is a block diagram illustrating the connecting through a
27 communications network such as the Internet or telephone lines connection to another
28 multimedia network of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 3(c), and
29 showing a video telephone conversation between a user located at the multimedia
30 network shown in Figure 3(c) with another user located at the other multimedia
31 network. The inventive multimedia network can be connected over the Internet or via
32 some other network connection to another multimedia network. Thus, a videophone
33 system can be configured that allows two users in separate houses down the block or
34 around the world to take part in a video conversation. The data carried over the local
35 television channels can be analog or digital, and since the coaxial cable is capable of
36 transmitting data at frequencies above and below those of the television spectrum, the
37 coaxial cable network can be used to carry analog or digital data that is not necessarily a
38 local television channel.

1 As shown in Figure 3(d), the existence of a user in the vicinity of one of the
2 network nodes can be determined through a user sensor. The user sensor may include
3 a physical motion sensor, an image motion sensor (for use with the CCD camera), a
4 sound sensor (which can use the output of the microphone), an ir sensor (which may
5 utilize the components of the ir signal detector), an ultrasonic sensor, or the like. In any
6 of the embodiments shown herein, such a user sensor can be available to detect when
7 and where a user of the inventive network is located. Further, upon detection of a user,
8 the computer can be used to generate a question (via audibly or visually displayed
9 information) requesting the user to identify himself or herself. The computer can then
10 set various user-preferences for operating the various devices controlled by it to that
11 particular user. Thus, for example, when an alert event occurs (described below), the
12 inventive system will be able to determine the location of the user for which the alert
13 message is being generated. The closest display (television, stereo, speakers, phone)
14 relative to the user can be determined and use to provide the user with the alert message.
15 Alternatively, the personal locators shown and described herein can be utilized to
16 determine who, when and where a user is. The CCD camera can also be utilized to
17 determine the existence and the identify of a user through an image recognition system.
18 In this case, the image recognition system is initialized by capturing video graphic data
19 of each particular registered user of the network. When a user first come into the view
20 of the CCD camera at one of the network nodes, this video graphic data is used to
21 determine the identity of that user. If the system fails to determine the identity of the
22 user, then it can be set to request the user to identify himself or herself. Similarly, the
23 voice pattern of the users registered with the system can be used for user-identification
24 purposes.

25 Figure 3(e) is a block diagram showing a mixed network system for connecting
26 various nodes of the inventive multimedia network, including a connection between a
27 computer node and a first device node via data transferred through a home electrical
28 wiring network and a connection between the second device node and the first device
29 node via a home co-axial cable connection. In this configuration, the computer can be
30 located at a computer node in a room in the house that does not have a pre-wired coaxial
31 connection. The computer receives a television video signal via a bi-directional home
32 electrical wiring signal Transferring means 40 that allows video and audio signals (as
33 well as control signals and data) to be transmitted over the existing home electrical
34 wiring. At at least one video device node, bi-directional home electrical wiring signal
35 Transferring means 40 are also provided for transferring video and audio, as well as
36 control signals and data, to and from the video device node over the home electrical
37 wiring. Also at this video device node is a bi-directional home coaxial wiring signal
38 Transferring means 40, for transferring video and audio, as well as control signals and
39 data, to and from the video device node over the home coaxial network. Signal transfer

1 bridging means 70 70 is provided in communication with both the bi-directional home
2 coaxial wiring signal Transferring means 40 and the bi-directional home electrical
3 wiring signal Transferring means 40 at this video device node. The Signal transfer
4 bridging means 70 70 allows the audio, video, control and data signals to flow between
5 the home electrical wiring and the home coaxial wiring. By this configuration, the
6 computer node is able to communicate video, audio, control and data signals with any
7 appropriate device connected to the home coaxial network, even though the computer
8 node is not directly connected to the coaxial network. Also, any device that is can be
9 connected to the home electrical wiring can be in communication with any device that is
10 connected with the home coaxial wiring. Depending on the available wiring, the signal
11 transfer bridging means 70 may be effective for transferring signals between any
12 combination of electrical wiring, phone lines, wireless transceiver 32, co-axial cable or
13 other wired network. In any case, the signal transfer bridging means 70 allows devices
14 to have access to a indirect network connection with the other devices on the network.

15 To further simplify the construction and operation of the inventive multimedia
16 network, fixed carrier frequencies can be utilized for carrying locally generated audio
17 and video content. The fixed carrier frequencies can be outside the range allotted for
18 television signals and thus prevent any need for selection, filtering out, or removal of
19 content from the television channels that are available from any particular cable
20 television provider. Further, since only a limited number of carrier frequencies will be
21 needed, a simple tuner can be provided for tuning in the local content channels. In
22 addition, the centralized computer control of the system will be greatly simplified, since
23 the local content channels will have to be received and tuned in by a device that is
24 specifically built to work with the inventive multimedia network.

25 As an example of a simplified system, a number of fixed audio and/or video
26 channels are generated by the computer and injected onto the home electrical wiring (or
27 phone line or coaxial, etc.) network. Each device node includes a frequency filter that
28 only allows one of the fixed channels carrier frequency to pass. This specific fixed
29 channel is only receivable by one receiving device located on the network. Thus, to
30 control the content viewed, for example, at a television located at a specific device node,
31 the computer controls the content carried on the frequency that is accessible only at that
32 specific node. The receiving device converts the audio and video content carried on the
33 fixed channel into a typically used TV channel, such as channel 3 or 4, that is provided
34 to the TV, VCR or set top box via a coaxial connection (as is typically done with
35 conventional VCRs and set top boxes). Alternatively, the receiving device converts the
36 audio and video content carried on the fixed channel into a conventional audio-out and
37 video-out signals that can be inputted to a VCR or TV through, for example, an RCA
38 jack or S-Video connection.

1 The control signals can be in the form of voice recognition (speech), and the
2 speaker phone components described herein utilized to inject the microphone or audio
3 input on the inventive multimedia network. A wireless connection can be made with
4 one or more speaker channels so that stereo or surround sound acoustics can be easily
5 obtained without running a lot of speaker wires.

6 Also, a series of audio-only channels can be generated by the computer and
7 injected onto the inventive multimedia network. These audio frequencies can be in the
8 frequency range that is tunable by, for example, any conventional FM radio. These
9 audio-only channels can be used, for example, to carry streaming audio content from
10 the Internet to any room that has a speaker in it. The audio channels can alternatively be
11 of a frequency that is not typically used for FM radio or television signals, and a
12 dedicated tuner can be provided at the nodes to tune in the computer-generated audio
13 signal. The audio-only signals will require component circuitry that is less complicated
14 and expensive to manufacture, as compared with the audio/video carrying local
15 channels. These audio-only channels can be used to enable the telephone, music, radio,
16 intercom, etc., functionality of the inventive multimedia network described herein.
17 Further, these audio-only channels are particularly useful in connecting the wireless or
18 other non-coaxial network-connected nodes since the cost of the circuitry infrastructure
19 needed for transmitting audio only signals is considerably less complicated and costly
20 as compared with video and audio signals.

21 Further, simple LCD or LED display devices can be used to indicate the
22 television channel, Internet streaming audio channel, telephone caller id and number,
23 volume, etc. These display devices can be controlled by simple control signals
24 generated by the centralized computer and carried over the wired or wireless
25 transmission network work connection.

26 Figure 3(f) shows an example of a relatively less complex wireless
27 configuration of the inventive multimedia network. In this case, a transceiver 32 is
28 connected with the microphone and speaker ports of a conventional computer of a
29 computer node located, in this example, in the bedroom. The transceiver 32 may,
30 alternatively or additionally, be connected to other communication ports or may be an
31 internal add-on card or even consist of components directly connected to the computer
32 motherboard. A device node consisting of a VCR and television is located remotely
33 from the computer, in this example, in the living room. The device node includes a
34 transceiver 32 unit that is connected with the audio ports of the VCR. The transceiver
35 32 unit may, alternatively or additionally, be connected to coaxial connections or RCA-
36 type jacks of the television and, if present, with a set top box. In this basic
37 configuration, the transceiver 32 unit is provided for receiving remote control signals
38 from a remote control unit. In this example, the remote control unit includes a

1 microphone for allowing user-generated voice input to be used as control signals in
2 controlling the devices and computer(s) on the inventive multimedia network.

3 As shown in Figure 3(g), the buttons of the computer are manually controlled
4 by the user to generate either a specific rf frequency, tone frequency or rf or IR pulse
5 train that are used as control signals. If tone frequencies are used as control signals, the
6 tone frequencies generated by remote control unit(s) and/or the transceiver 32 unit(s) are
7 preferably beyond the range of human hearing. The transceiver 32 units located at the
8 device node and/or at the computer node receive the remote control generated control
9 signals.

10 Figure 3(h) shows the basic circuit components of this configuration of the
11 inventive multimedia system for allowing the control of a computer from a remote
12 location and the computer control of remotely located device as described herein. In
13 accordance with this aspect of the invention, an effective voice activation control system
14 is enabled, since the source of the voice signals, the user, is close to the microphone
15 during use of the remote control unit. The voice recognition module may be disposed
16 within the remote control unit. The set top box or computer transceiver 32 unit may
17 receive voice and control signals via a wireless transmission from the remote controller
18 (or from the remote controller to the set top box transceiver 32 unit to the computer
19 transceiver 32 unit) for voice recognition and control signal purposes.

20 Figure 3(i) is a block diagram of an embodiment of the inventive multimedia
21 network having a computer node with multiple TV tuners. The multiple TV tuners may
22 be incorporated onto individual add-on cards, provided directly on the computer
23 motherboard, or provided as stand-alone external units. Further, in accordance with the
24 present invention, a TV tuner card can be provided having two or more TV tuners
25 incorporated thereon. Each TV tuner can be capable of tuning in the same or different
26 TV channels for display as a multiple screen display on a single TV or computer
27 monitor, or as a separate screen displayed on separate TVs (via separate local channels)
28 and/or separate monitors. In this configuration, a manual user selectable local channel
29 Frequency selection means 74 is provided for assigning the local channels containing
30 the computer video output and the device video output in a manually defined manner.

31 Figure 3(j) is a flow chart showing the initialization of the multimedia network
32 configured as shown in Figure 3(i). In this case, the user installs the system modules at
33 the computer node(s) and device node(s) throughout the house. The user then
34 determines which TV channels are available for carrying the local computer channel(s)
35 and the local device channel(s). The user then selects an available channel for each
36 node using a manual local channel frequency selection switch that sets a local channel
37 Frequency selection means 74 to the user determined local channel. The computer
38 video local channel generator is thus set to output the local video and/or audio
39 information generated by the computer or device at a carrier frequency that is manually

1 chosen by the user. A separate microprocessor 22 unit may be provided for
2 automatically detecting and assigning the available channels to the computer(s) and
3 device(s) connected to the inventive multimedia network. The software initialization
4 routine is run on the computer where the software prompts the user to input the selected
5 channels and the corresponding node information so that the computer "knows" which
6 channel is assigned to the output of which computer or device connected to the
7 inventive multimedia network.

8 Figure 3(k) is a block diagram showing an embodiment of the inventive
9 multimedia network configured for allowing multiple simultaneous users of a single
10 computer with separate computer generated video information displayed on three
11 remotely located televisions or other display devices connected to the inventive
12 multimedia network. In accordance with this aspect of the present invention, a single
13 computer can be used to display video and/or graphics (word processor documents,
14 web pages, schedules, spreadsheets, multimedia displays, etc.) simultaneously on two
15 or more display devices. For example, a user located in the bedroom (TV1) can view a
16 web page using a conventional web browser via a monitor1 local television channel.
17 While viewing the web page, the first user also has a television program and a video
18 intercom conversation displayed in PIP format. In another bedroom (TV2) as second
19 user works on a word processing document while viewing a child monitor camera
20 output along with a TV program in PIP format. The TV program in this case happens
21 to be the same show as the child are watching on so the parent can monitor the
22 children's viewing habits. The determination of which show the children are watching
23 is done by detecting which channel the children's TV is switched to by detecting the
24 control signals (with computer generated or remote control generated) used to control
25 the children's TV, VCR or cable set top box.

26 In the living room (TV3), the children are viewing the television program along
27 with its associated web page. The parent in the bedroom can also switch to the same
28 TV channel as the children are viewing at any time so that anything that the children are
29 viewing is monitored by the parent.

30 Figure 3(l) is a flow chart for enabling multiple simultaneous users of a single
31 computer with separate computer generated video information displayed on three
32 remotely located televisions or other display devices connected to the inventive
33 multimedia network.

34 Figure 3(m) is a block diagram of the inventive multimedia network having a
35 device remote control signal detector and a device status detector for enabling the
36 computer to determine the status of a device, such as its on/off state, and the operation
37 of the device, such as remote controlled channel selection, for a device connected with
38 the inventive multimedia network. A Light detector 76, consisting of a photodiode, can
39 be adhered to the surface of the TV screen and/or an acoustic detector can be positioned

1 near one of the TV speakers, or, if available, connected to a spk out jack of the TV, or
2 stereo. As described below, some of the features of the inventive multimedia network
3 work best if the on-off state of the TV(s) can be determined. Another way to determine
4 the on-off state of the TV is to keep track of the control signals received by the TV
5 (either computer generated or generated by a user controlled remote controller. In this
6 case, the circuitry described below with reference to Figures 41(a) - 41(b) can be
7 employed.

8 Figure 3(n) is a block diagram of an embodiment of the inventive multimedia
9 network utilizing local television channels that are outside the frequency range of
10 normally received television channels. One of the problems associated with the use of
11 the allotted television channels is the fact that different cable television signal providers
12 use different cable channels for carrying their programming content. This makes it
13 necessary to determine which of the possible allotted channels is being used for
14 television content and which are available for carrying the locally generated channels.
15 Further, as the program selection increases, the number of available channels decreases,
16 making for a potentially unstable multimedia network system. In accordance with one
17 aspect of the invention, the available channels are determined using a TV tuner
18 connected with the computer. The allotted TV channel frequencies are sequentially
19 tuned in, and if a viewable signal is detected, the channel is categorized as "unavailable"
20 for carrying a local channel. If a viewable channel is not detected, the channel is
21 categorized as "available" for carrying a local channel. This scanning of the allotted
22 channels is well known in the art, and typically found as a feature on modern televisions
23 and VCRs.

24 In accordance with this aspect of the present invention, the "available" channels
25 are determined by the computer or an external microprocessor 22 that functions along
26 the lines of the "scanning" systems well known in the art. Once the available local
27 channels are determined, the microprocessor 22 or computer assigns a channel to each
28 local channel generating device. The devices are given user selected name
29 representations, such as "computer", "bedroom VCR", "living room DVD player", etc.
30 so that the users do not have to remember which channel is associated with which
31 device. Further, a system maintenance feature can be provided for periodically
32 scanning the allotted television channels to ensure that no new channels or other
33 changes have been made by the cable television provider. In the event that a channel
34 change is detected that interferes with one or more of the locally generated channels, the
35 maintenance system automatically re-allocates the channels, and either alerts the user to
36 change the local channel frequency for a particular device (manual configuration) or
37 sends the appropriate command signals to make the appropriate changes.

38 However, as shown in Figure 3(n), a simplified system is obtained by using
39 local channels that are outside the range allotted to TV channels. In this case, the

1 inventive system box at the local audio and/or video source (computer, VCR, stereo,
2 etc.) includes an a/v signal modulator that is capable of creating a signal that can be
3 transmitted over, for example, the home coaxial network, but that is outside the allotted
4 frequency range of television signals. At the display device end (TV, stereo, VCR,
5 computer, etc.) a demodulator or audio and/or video signal tuner is provided having
6 tuning characteristics that enable the signals that are carried by frequencies not in the
7 allotted TV band to be tuned in and demodulated. The demodulated audio and/or video
8 signals can be converted at the display end to a channel that can be tuned in by a typical
9 device, such as the conventionally used channels three and four for VCRs and set top
10 boxes, or an appropriate radio station. Alternatively, the demodulated a/v signals can
11 be inputted to the VCR (or TV etc.) through the a/v in jacks (in a manner similar to
12 connecting a video camcorder to the RCA jacks of a VCR). This configuration of the
13 present invention allows a more efficient use circuit components since the local channels
14 are not subject to change with different cable television providers. Further, since the
15 allotted cable television channels are untouched, they are still available for line up
16 changes by the cable system provider.

17 In accordance with this aspect of the inventive multimedia network, a computer
18 node is provided including computer display local channel generating means for
19 generating a computer display local television channel. The computer display local
20 television channel contains an output signal (audio and/or video) corresponding to the
21 computer display output signal generated by the computer located at the computer node.
22 Alternatively, the local channel may be an audio only channel. The computer display
23 local television channel comprises of a local carrier frequency that is outside the
24 frequency range allotted to cable television channels that is used to modulate the audio
25 and/or video data generated by the computer. If necessary, a scan converter or other
26 well know device can be provided to convert the video data generated by the computer
27 to a signal that can be modulated by the carrier frequency so that it will be transferable
28 over the home network, such as the home electrical wiring, telephone line or coaxial
29 cable network. The computer display local channel allows the video data generated by
30 the computer to be displayed on a television located on the multimedia network remotely
31 from the computer. Since, in this embodiment, the computer display local channel is
32 not tunable by a conventional television, the output signal from the computer must first
33 be demodulated from the local carrier frequency by demodulation means. The
34 demodulation means removes the local carrier signal from the audio and/or video signal
35 that was output by the computer. This demodulated output signal can be fed to an
36 appropriate a/v in jack of a conventional VCR (such as an RCA-type jack) or to an
37 appropriate a/v in jack on some televisions.

38 The computer node also includes manual channel Selecting means for manually
39 selecting the local carrier frequency for the computer display local television channel.

1 In this embodiment, the computer display local television channel is one of a
2 predetermined set of local carrier frequencies. Stated otherwise, either a set of
3 frequency generators or a variable frequency generator is provided to generate the local
4 carrier frequencies that are outside the range of frequencies allotted to the television
5 channels that are normally tunable by a conventional television. The frequency
6 generators are of known construction, and may be simple circuits that are dedicated to
7 output a signal preset carrier frequency. For example, a carrier frequency of 850Mhz
8 may be used as one of the local channel frequencies. Thus, a frequency generator is
9 provided that outputs the 850Mhz frequency is manually selectable by the user.
10 Alternatively, the computer can be used to assign the local carrier frequencies, and the
11 addressability of the units at the nodes utilized to ensure that each of the available
12 frequencies is assigned to only one device output, or that if two devices are assigned the
13 same local channel frequency, they are not both outputting the local channel at the same
14 time (this way, more devices than there are local carrier frequencies available can be
15 connected to the network at one time, with the computer keeping track of which device
16 is assigned which frequency)

17 The computer node also including device control signal generating means 16
18 controllable by the computer for generating device control signals transferable over the
19 multimedia network and effective to selectively control at least one video device located
20 on the multimedia network remotely from the computer. The computer node further
21 including computer control signal receiving means 12 for receiving computer control
22 signals transferred over the multimedia network.

23 A video device node including device control signal emitting means 14 receives
24 the device control signals and for emitting video device control signals effective for
25 controlling a video device located on the multimedia network remotely from the
26 computer so that the video device can be remotely controlled by the computer. The
27 video device node further include computer control signal generating means 15
28 controllable by a user input device 18 for generating computer control signals
29 transferable over the multimedia network so that the computer can be remotely
30 controlled in response to a user input.

31 In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the video device node may
32 further include Node modulation means for converting the computer display local
33 channel to a television frequency of channel 3 or channel 4. In this case, the computer
34 display local channel is received having a frequency that is not tunable by the television
35 or VCR, but this signal is converted to channel 3 or 4, as is typically done in
36 conventional video device.

37 Figure 3(o) is a block diagram showing a configuration of the inventive
38 multimedia network for directing data to and for controlling devices capable of
39 recording one type of data to record data not normally recorded by the device. In

1 accordance with this aspect of the invention, the computer is utilized for directing the
2 reception of video, audio, digital data, modem and modem-like signals, etc. to a
3 recording device connected to the inventive multimedia network. For example, a VCR
4 tape or random access video recorder can be employed for recording a radio program
5 and/or songs from a CD player.

6 Figure 3(p) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
7 having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wirelessly linked
8 computer; the wireless linked computer being enabled for use with the inventive
9 multimedia network via wireless components incorporated in a standard PCI or
10 expansion module. In accordance with this aspect of the invention, the receiving and
11 transmitting rf circuitry is connected to a notebook computer via the expansion bay
12 provisions of the computer. The received video data is provided to the notebook
13 computer and can be displayed (via software control) either full screen or within a
14 window. A CCD camera, or the output of the notebook video circuit can be converted
15 to an rf signal for transmission to devices connected with the multimedia network. A
16 control signal generator is controlled in response to input from a user via a connection
17 with the keyboard, communication port, mouse-type input device, etc. via the
18 connection with the computer's expansion bay.

19 Figure 3(q) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
20 having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wireless display
21 terminal, the wireless display terminal being enabled with a wireless transmitter and
22 receiver for use with the inventive multimedia network and for use with other similarly
23 configured wireless display terminals. Thus, the inventive wireless display terminal
24 can be used for displaying data transmitted from the multimedia network, and can be
25 used for communication and data exchange (video, audio, binary, etc.) between
26 similarly configured devices.

27 Figure 3(r) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
28 having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wireless display
29 terminal, the wireless display terminal being capable of sending video and audio back to
30 the multimedia network and to other similarly configured wireless display terminals.

31 Figure 3(s) illustrates a configuration of the inventive multimedia network
32 having a wireless connection between the computer node and a wireless display; the
33 wireless display terminal being comprised of relatively low cost components.

34 Figure 3(t) illustrates a configuration of an embodiment of a touch screen
35 wireless remote control device for displaying a same image on the remote control device
36 screen as is shown on a large display connected with the inventive multimedia network.

37 Figure 4(a) is a flowchart showing the basic method for recording content-
38 indicating information on a VCR tape in accordance with the present invention.

1 Figure 4(b) is a flowchart showing the basic method for playing back content-
2 indicating information recorded on a VCR tape in accordance with the present
3 invention.

4 Figure 4(c) is a flowchart showing the basic method for recording content-
5 indicating information on a DVD or other random access recorder in accordance with
6 the present invention.

7 Figure 4(d) is a flowchart showing the basic method for playing back content-
8 indicating information recorded on a DVD or other random access recorder in
9 accordance with the present invention.

10 Figure 4(e) illustrates a random access disk recording media having program
11 content, a program content indicating document, and program content and document
12 address index signal recorded thereon in accordance with the present invention.

13 Figure 4(f) is a flow chart showing the steps for controlling remote devices
14 using the inventive wireless terminal via a remote computer in accordance with the
15 present invention.

16 Figure 4(g) is a flow chart showing the steps for choosing the display selection
17 for the inventive wireless terminal.

18 Figure 5 is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of the inventive
19 multimedia network configured as stand-alone accessory boxed distributed on network
20 through direct and wireless connections. The user input can be through
21 keyboard/mouse, voice recognition or remote control. The connection for transmitting
22 and receiving the information signal can be through the USB, ADB, serial, telephony,
23 modem, game, parallel, data port, video port, etc., incorporated with a conventional
24 personal computer. The VCR tape header information and data signal can be an
25 inaudible signal that can be recorded on the VCR tape and detected using a software-
26 based frequency filter or an electronic circuit-based frequency filter. The wireless
27 transceiver 32 can be replaced with a hard-wired co-ax, home network system - like
28 firewire, via existing phone lines or electrical wiring, etc. An FM circuit can be used,
29 like that used by wireless mics and instrument pickups.

30 Figure 6 is a block diagram showing the use of microphone and speaker ports
31 of a computer or video device for transferring signals for recording and receiving VCR
32 tape content information over the inventive multimedia network.

33 Figure 7 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
34 configured as an add-on part for a computer and imbedded VCR system;

35 Figure 8 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
36 distributed over an existing home phone line network for transferring video, audio
37 and/or computer data as a digital and/or analog signal.

1 Figure 9 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
2 distributed over an existing home coaxial cable television network for transferring
3 video, audio and/or computer data as a digital and/or analog signal.

4 Figure 10 is a block diagram showing the inventive multimedia network
5 distributed over the existing home electrical wiring network for transferring video,
6 audio and/or computer data as a digital and/or analog signal.

7 Figure 11 is a block diagram illustrating the capabilities of a single computer-
8 enabled set top box being available at any TV on the inventive multimedia network.

9 Figure 12 shows the details of a distributed computer-enabled set top box
10 capabilities distributed over the inventive multimedia network.

11 Figure 13 is a block diagram showing a basic configuration of an inventive
12 addressable multimedia network.

13 Figure 14(a) is a schematic representation of a VCR tape recorded in accordance
14 with the inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape. Figure
15 14(b) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a conventional VCR
16 tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and video information
17 that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the tape having room
18 for piggyback data. Figure 14(c) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded
19 on a conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio
20 and video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of
21 the taped being used for recording inaudible tone signals used as recorded control cue
22 information recorded throughout the tape or at specific locations in accordance with the
23 present invention. Figure 14(d) is a drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on
24 a conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
25 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
26 taped being used for recording tape identifying information and location on tape
27 identifying information throughout the tape or at specific locations in accordance with
28 the present invention. Figure 14(e) is an drawing schematically illustrating data
29 recorded on a conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to
30 record audio and video information that is actually displayed on a television, and
31 another portion of the taped being used for recording tape identifying information
32 and/or location on tape identifying information and/or commercial skip data throughout
33 the tape and/or at specific locations in accordance with the present invention;

34 In accordance with this aspect of the present invention, a method and apparatus
35 are provided for controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
36 remote computer. The content-indicating information corresponding to content to be
37 recorded on a videotape is determined as described herein. The determined content-
38 indicating information in a tape database on a computer memory, such as a hard drive,
39 or on a memory device associated with a dedicated microprocessor 22. A tape

1 identification value for the videotape is determined. The tape identification value may
2 be a user-inputted value or a computer or microprocessor 22 generated value, or a value
3 received from another source such as an Internet or electronic programming guide. If
4 an identification value is detected on a tape, then there is no need to determine a new
5 value for it (unless the tape is to be reformatted or there is some other reason to change
6 its identification value. The tape identification value is stored in the tape database and
7 used to match a tape inserted in a VCR connected with the inventive multimedia
8 network with other data stored in the tape database.

9 A recordable identification signal is generated by the computer or a
10 microprocessor 22 for recording on the videotape. The recordable identification signal
11 corresponds to the tape identification value and is transferred through connects of the
12 computer and the remotely located VCR to the multimedia network. The recordable
13 identification signal is transferred over the network to a recording head of a videotape
14 recorder and the videotape recorder is controlled by control signals generated by the
15 computer or a microprocessor 22 to record the tape identification signal on the videotape
16 in the VCR. The tape identification signal can be recorded substantially continuously
17 during the recording of the content signal on the videotape. It can be, for example, an
18 inaudible tone signal or other recordable data that does not substantially interfere with
19 the viewer's viewing and listening to a TV program or other content recorded on the
20 videotape. The tape identification signal can be recorded non-continuously during the
21 recording of the content signal on the videotape, for example, as part of a tape
22 information header recorded at the beginning of the tape.

23 During use, a content signal (such as a TV program) containing content to be
24 recorded on the videotape is received. The content signal is mixed with the tape
25 identification signal and transferred as a mixed signal to the recording head of the
26 videotape recorder. The appropriate control signals are generated by the computer or
27 microprocessor 22 and transferred to the VCR (or other recording device, such as a
28 DVD player or digital VCR) for controlling it to record the content and tape
29 identification mixed signal. Control cue information is determined for use in
30 automatically controlling the videotape recorder (as described herein, or for other
31 purposes). A recordable control cue signal corresponding to the control cue
32 information is generated and mixed with the content and tape identification mixed
33 signal. Or, the control cue information and/or the content and/or the tape identification
34 signal (and/or the commercial break information described herein) can be generated
35 separately or mixed depending on the intended functionality. The mixed control cue,
36 content and tape identification signal is transferred to the recording head of the
37 videotape recorder and the videotape recorder is controlled to record the control cue,
38 content and tape identification mixed signal. At least one of the recordable control cue
39 signal and the tape identification signal comprises a signal recordable on the videotape

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1 that is not displayed during the normal playback of the tape. At least one of the
2 recordable control cue signal and the tape identification signal comprises an inaudible
3 tone signal. At least one of the recordable control cue information, the tape
4 identification value and the content-indicating information can comprise HTML data.

5 The present invention provides an effective apparatus and method of
6 controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a remote computer in
7 accordance with control cues stored in a tape database. Control cues corresponding to
8 the generation of control signals under the control of a computer for control a remotely
9 located video recorder are determined and stored in a tape database. To appropriately
10 control the VCR via control signals generated by the remotely located computer or
11 microprocessor 22, a generation time for generating a control signal corresponding with
12 the control cue information for use in automatically controlling the videotape recorder
13 can be determined. The generation time is determined by generating a tone signal
14 during the recording of the videotape, the tone signal being an indication of the
15 generation time for generating the control signal corresponding with the control cue
16 information. The generation time can be determined as a time value occurring after a
17 detection of the tone signal during the playback of the videotape. The time value
18 corresponding to the generation time is stored in the tape database.

19 In accordance with the present invention, a video recorder is controlled through
20 control signals generated by a remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a
21 videotape. Control signals are generated using a computer for controlling a video
22 recorder to playback a recordable identification signal previously recorded on a
23 videotape. The recordable identification signal is transferred to the computer and a tape
24 identification value determined (via software or a detection circuit) for the videotape.
25 The tape identification value is compared with data stored in a tape database, or
26 otherwise used to determine which tape is in the VCR. The content-indicating
27 information stored in the tape data base corresponding to the tape identification value is
28 thus found so that a representation of the content of television programs recorded on the
29 videotape can be displayed by generating a graphical information screen, voice
30 generation or other feedback that is generated by the computer or microprocessor 22
31 and displayed on the TV where the user is located (not necessarily where the VCR is).

32 Figure 14(b) is a schematic representation of a VCR tape recorded with short
33 portions of the different television programs or home video recording segments
34 recorded at the beginning of the tape for facilitating recorded content selection.

35 Figure 14(c) is a drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
36 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
37 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
38 tape having room for piggyback data.

1 Figure 14(d) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
2 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
3 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
4 taped being used for recording inaudible tone signals used as recorded control cue
5 information recorded throughout the tape or at specific locations in accordance with the
6 present invention.

7 Figure 14(e) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
8 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
9 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
10 taped being used for recording tape identifying information and location on tape
11 identifying information throughout the tape or at specific locations in accordance with
12 the present invention.

13 Figure 14(f) is an drawing schematically illustrating data recorded on a
14 conventional VCR tape, showing a portion of the tape being used to record audio and
15 video information that is actually displayed on a television, and another portion of the
16 taped being used for recording tape identifying information and/or location on tape
17 identifying information and/or commercial skip data throughout the tape and/or at
18 specific locations in accordance with the present invention.

19 Figure 15 is a schematic representation of the VCR tape shown in Figure 14.

20 Figure 16 is a schematic representation of the VCR tape shown in Figure 14.

21 Figure 17 is a flow chart showing a tape formatting operation in accordance
22 with the inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape.

23 Figure 18 is a flow chart of a pre-recording procedure in accordance with the
24 inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape.

25 Figure 19 is a flow chart of the tape recording procedure in accordance with the
26 inventive method for indicating the content recorded on a videotape. The present
27 invention can be used to correct Y2K problem of many VCRs which will not be able to
28 be programmed after 12/31/99 (or some other date). If counter information is available,
29 it can be used instead of tone signals to determined where the recorded portions begin
30 and end. The end of the last recorded portion can also be found by detecting where
31 there is no video signal recorded (in the case of a new unrecorded tape). The
32 approximate location of tone signals are determined by calculating the FF (or RW) time
33 to get to a known location on the tape.

34 The header, start, end, etc., signals are generated by the computer. They may
35 be modem signals, or other tone signals. They do not have to be inaudible (they may
36 be video data), and the volume of the TV can be muted via the remote control during
37 times that these signals are being played back from the tape. In the case of video data,
38 the pixel information can be used to carry binary information. For example, the pixel
39 state, black or white, can be used to convey the binary number 1 and 0, respectively.

1 The binary data corresponding to the HTML document (or the content-indicating
2 information) can be converted to pixel data representation and recorded as frames of
3 video on the videotape. Upon playback, the frames of video data received from the
4 videotape can be digitized by the computer to extract the binary data and thus
5 reconstitute the HTML document or content-indicating information. The default could
6 be to program the VCR to timer-record, which can be done through OSM or VCR+.
7 The computer or microprocessor 22 can be used for timer recording for VCRs that are
8 not in database, or for VCRs that are not Y2K compliant (after 12.31.99), or for any
9 other reason that the VCR program record capability is not available or the logical
10 choice. If the VCR programming function was used, then the computer or
11 microprocessor 22 will have to record the End-Program signal at the next opportunity.
12 Thus, there would need a mechanism to detect if the tape was removed or the end-of-
13 program location moved from the recording spot, problem can be solved by finding
14 end-of-program location or by detecting the end of recorded data on tape. The system
15 can be self-contained in a VCR, without any computer connection. A small
16 programmable microprocessor 22 would be used to generate and detect the head info
17 and the program start and end info. A standard can be formed for licensing to VCR
18 manufacturers so that their VCRs can read and write header and program information.
19 In the case of a system with access to the tape counter (or other tape position
20 determining means), more precise locations of the signals can be found, and- there
21 might only be need for recording the header information since it will have the precise
22 tape positions of the start and end of each program recorded on the tape.

23 Figure 20 is a flow chart showing the playback procedure of a selected pre-
24 recorded program in accordance with the inventive method of indicating the content
25 recorded on a videotape.

26 Figure 21 is a block diagram showing an example configuration of the inventive
27 multimedia network containing multi-purpose nodes distributed over a pre-existing
28 coaxial cable television network.

29 Figure 22 is a continuation of the example multimedia network shown in Figure
30 21.

31 Figure 23 is a continuation of the example multimedia network shown in Figure
32 21.

33 Figure 24 is a continuation of the example multimedia network shown in Figure
34 21. A selectable frequency modulator or tuner can be used for tuning in the shows
35 selected via the control signals, or a predetermined tuner (one of the VCRs or cable set
36 top boxes) can be controlled to tune in the channels that are output on that sources in-
37 house channel. Any device that is shown with a wireless connection can typically also
38 be connected to the network directly.

1 Figure 25 is a perspective view of a wireless multimedia computer for use with
2 the wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24.
3 Figure 26 is a schematic side view showing parts of the wireless computer shown in
4 Figure 24. In accordance with an embodiment of this invention, the wireless
5 multimedia computer includes a detachable wireless display terminal. When used
6 within range of a wireless transceiver 32 node connected with the inventive multimedia
7 network, the display terminal can be detached from the keyboard, computer and storage
8 24 device portion and act as a wireless display terminal as described with reference to
9 Figures 27 and 28.

10 Figure 27(a) is a front view of a wireless display terminal for use with the
11 wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24. As
12 with the other wireless display devices and computers described herein, the wireless
13 display terminal receives data signals through an antenna that is distributed on the
14 inventive multimedia network. In the case of the wireless display terminal shown in
15 Figure 27, a touch screen can be used to input user commands. Alternatively, another
16 input device can also be used such as track pads and voice recognition. In the case of
17 voice recognition, components can be incorporated along the lines of the remote
18 controller with a built in microphone described herein.

19 Figure 27(b) is a perspective view of the wireless display terminal for use with
20 the wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24.
21 The wireless display terminal may include a directional or patch antenna that fits within
22 or is fixed to a housing that receives and transmits data between the wireless display
23 terminal and the other devices, such as the computer, on the network. The housing
24 holds an LCD screen (which may have a touch screen associated with it). The
25 computational power of the remotely located computer is controllable by the wireless
26 distributed network terminal, and the wireless display terminal acts as a monitor for the
27 computer. Thus, there is no need to include much, if any, computing power onboard
28 the wireless distributed network terminal. The wireless display terminal also does not
29 require much, if any, storage 24 capacity, since the computer hard drive and other
30 storage 24 devices connected to the network can be accessed. Accordingly, the
31 inventive wireless display terminal can be built for relatively low cost, have relatively
32 low weight and have relatively low power requirements as compared with a
33 conventional lap top computer.

34 The inventive wireless display terminal system is for use with a multimedia
35 network that has a wireless transceiver 32 node for receiving and transmitting control
36 signals and video data to wireless devices. The inventive multimedia network is an
37 example of such as network, but is not the only such network that can be utilized with
38 the inventive wireless display terminal system. The display terminal device includes a
39 housing member and a display screen held by the housing member. Computer control

1 signal generating means 15 generates computer control signals for controlling a
2 remotely located computer. A display driver drives the display screen in response to a
3 display signal generated by the remotely located computer. A terminal side wireless
4 transceiver 32 is disposed within the housing member and transmits the computer control
5 signals to the remotely located computer as a wireless signal. The terminal side
6 wireless transceiver 32 also receives the display signal generated by the remotely
7 located computer as a wireless signal. By this construction, a light weight, low power
8 and relatively lower cost easily portable device is obtained that has most if not all the
9 capabilities of the bulky and non-portable remotely located desktop computer. Further,
10 the inventive wireless display terminal can be configured with some or all of the
11 components described herein for the device and computer nodes, and thus provides a
12 very flexible display and control system for viewing video and computer data generated
13 by any of the devices and computers connected to the inventive multimedia network.

14 The signal generated by the remotely located computer includes computer
15 display video data. Wireless video receiving means receives a wireless video signal
16 containing the computer display video data generated by the remotely located computer.
17 A Touch sensitive input device 80 can be built into the inventive wireless display
18 terminal for receiving user input for controlling the generating of the computer control
19 signals. The Touch sensitive input device 80 may be at least one of a touch screen
20 disposed adjacent to the display screen, a pressure sensitive keyboard, a track pad and a
21 track ball. Further, a voice recognition system, as described herein, can be employed
22 for controlling the remotely located computer and the other devices connected to the
23 network via user voice commands.

24 Depending on the configuration of the inventive network, or network and device
25 connections that are anticipated, the terminal side wireless transceiver 32 can be
26 constructed of at least one transmitter and one receiver comprised of an infrared
27 transmitter, an infrared receiver, an ultrasonic transmitter, an ultrasonic receiver, a rf
28 transmitter and an rf receiver. Thus, the terminal side wireless transceiver 32 can tune
29 in or transmit two or more simultaneous channels. These channels can be processed by
30 a video processor into a signal display image. Thus, for example, a multimedia signal,
31 from a device node, can be combined with a computer monitor image (from a computer
32 node) into a PIP-type image screen. The wireless display terminal may also include
33 addressable identification means and any of the local channel selection means described
34 herein. A wireless transceiver 32 node connected to a hard wired network having a
35 connection to the remotely located computer can be provided. The wireless transceiver
36 32 node includes a computer control signal receiver for receiving the wireless signal
37 including the computer control signals from the terminal side wireless transceiver 32
38 and a display signal transmitter for transmitting the display signal generated by the
39 remotely located computer to the terminal side wireless transceiver 32. Further the

1 wireless transceiver 32 node can include the channel selection means for tuning in the
2 local television and audio channels as described herein. An input device, such as a
3 CCD camera and/or microphone, can be included to generate a video signal and an
4 audio signal. The terminal display side wireless transceiver 32 includes means for
5 transmitting the video signal and audio signal to the wireless transceiver 32 node as a
6 wireless signal. Thus, the portable wireless display terminal can be used as a
7 communication port for the in-home video intercom system, Internet-based video phone
8 system, multi-purpose remote controller and enhanced speaker phone system described
9 herein. The wireless transceiver 32 node can also be connected directly to the
10 computer, without any need for a home hard wired network.

11 The inventive wireless display terminal can also include remote control signal
12 generating means for generating remote control signals effective for controlling
13 appliances receptive of such control signals. In this case, the appliances can include
14 video and audio devices connected to the network, or other appliances, such as coffee
15 makers, dishwashers, etc., can be controlled. For example, the remote control signal
16 generating means might include a universal IR remote controller. The inventive
17 wireless display terminal can be connected to a keyboard and CPU unit (like the one
18 shown in Figures 25 and 26) to act as a display terminal for a portable notebook
19 computer.

20 Figure 28(a) is an isolated view of a touch screen user input device 18 and LCD
21 display screen, with a block diagram showing the components of an embodiment of the
22 inventive wireless display terminal;

23 Figure 28(b) is a front view of an embodiment of the inventive wireless display
24 terminal having an attachable touch screen/display unit that can be attached to a self-
25 contained wireless computer as shown in Figure 26, with a wireless component unit
26 attached to the touch screen/display unit;

27 Figure 28(c) is a front view of the wireless display terminal shown in Figure
28 28(b) having the wireless component unit being detached;

29 Figure 28(d) shows an embodiment of the inventive wireless display terminal
30 mounted on a keyboard stand;

31 Figure 28(e) shows the wireless display terminal being detached from the
32 keyboard stand;

33 Figure 28(f) shows the wireless display terminal having the keyboard stand
34 being placed in a stowed position;

35 Figure 28(g) shows the wireless display terminal having the keyboard stand
36 disposed in the stowed position behind the display screen;

37 Figure 28(h) shows the wireless display terminal having the keyboard stand
38 disposed in a protective position in front of the display screen;

1 Figures 28(i) and 28(j) show the inventive antenna assembly 300 mounted for
2 use with a laptop computer system or the inventive wireless terminal. In this case, the
3 laptop computer or wireless terminal includes the radio signal transmitting device 302,
4 which may be used to communicate with a remote computer located on the inventive
5 multimedia network, and/or may be used in conjunction with a wireless modem or
6 telephone for communication via the internet, satellite or land-based communications
7 network. The laptop computer includes a communication circuit having a signal
8 generator that is electrically coupled with the driven antenna member 304 of the
9 inventive antenna assembly 300. The thus configured laptop computer can be used for
10 wireless communication via, for example, a terrestrial cellular telephone network or
11 orbiting satellite. The communication circuit may include a modem for the transmission
12 of digital data over the inventive multimedia network, the internet or other
13 communications networks. A local channel generator can be used to generate a local
14 channel originating from the wireless terminal and transmitted via the communication
15 circuit. During use of the wireless terminal, the user positions the top half containing a
16 display screen 336 and the inventive antenna assembly 300 in an upright position. In
17 this position, when the user views the display screen 336, the shielding side 308 of the
18 inventive antenna assembly 300 is disposed so that the radio signal transmitted from the
19 inventive antenna assembly 300 is directed away from the user and thus more effective
20 for communication. The transmission side 306 of the inventive antenna assembly 300
21 is directed away from the user, so that the radio signal can be transmitted in directions
22 away from the user. By providing the inventive antenna assembly 300 at the position
23 on the upper portion of the laptop computer, the radio signal transmitted is not absorbed
24 by the body of the user, and is directed away for effective communication with a remote
25 receiver. A radiation transmissive window 338 may be provided for allowing the
26 transmission and reception of radio signals by the inventive antenna assembly 300.
27 Also, a separate reception antenna (not shown) may be provided to further enhance the
28 communication characteristics of the inventive laptop computer capable of wireless
29 communication.

30 Figures 28(k) and 28(l) show the inventive antenna assembly 300 mounted with
31 a personal computing device known as a PDA. In this case, the inventive antenna
32 assembly 300 is electrically coupled with the communication circuit of the PDA. For
33 example, the communication circuit may include a modem for the transmission of
34 binary data over, for example, the inventive multimedia network, a terrestrial cellular
35 telephone network or orbiting satellite. The radio signal is transmitted through the
36 transmission side 306 of the inventive antenna assembly 300 in directions away from
37 the user for effective communication with a remote receiver. A radiation transmissive
38 window 338 may be provided for allowing the transmission and reception of radio
39 signals to and from the communication circuit of the PDA.

1 Figure 28(m) is an isolated enlarged cross sectional view of a flexible
2 rechargeable battery 126 used in accordance with the present invention. The flexible
3 rechargeable battery 126 is used, in accordance with the present invention, as a signal
4 shielding battery 126 that includes at least one shielding material that is effective for
5 electrically shielding electromagnetic signal. The signal shielding battery 126 is
6 preferably a rechargeable plastic lithium-ion battery, such as that produced by Bellcore,
7 of Livingston, NJ. Such a battery has an unfolded thickness that is about the same as
8 the thickness of a credit card. The battery 126 comprises a plastic member 128, which
9 is formed by impregnating a plastic with a liquid electrolyte. The resulting plastic
10 electrolyte member 128 is typically about 50% liquid and cannot leak. The plastic
11 electrolyte member 128 is sandwiched between a positive plastic electrode 130 melded
12 to an aluminum mesh 132 and a negative plastic electrode 134 melded to a copper mesh
13 136. Thus, in accordance with the present invention, the signal shielding battery 126
14 comprises a negative planar electrode side (negative plastic electrode 134 and copper
15 mesh 136) disposed at an electrically negative side of the battery 126, a positive planar
16 electrode side (positive plastic electrode 130 and aluminum mesh 132) disposed at an
17 electrically positive side of the battery 126, and an electrolyte member 128 disposed
18 between the negative planar electrode side and the positive planar electrode side. At
19 least one of the negative planar electrode side and the positive planar electrode side is
20 comprised of the shielding material for electrically shielding electromagnetic, or
21 microwave, signal. In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the invention, the
22 negative planar electrode side comprises the shielding material. Preferably, an
23 electronic component 138 that is to be shielded is grounded to the negative planar
24 electrode side through an appropriate electrical connection, such as a ground wire 140
25 electrically connected between a connecting land 142 of the battery 126 and a
26 connecting land 142 of the electrical component 138. To provide additional
27 electromagnetic shielding, a signal absorbing layer 144 may be disposed as a laminate
28 component of the signal shielding battery 126, as shown in Figure 28(m). Also, a
29 signal blocking layer and/or reflecting layer (not shown) may be included in addition to,
30 or substituted for, the signal absorbing layer 144. The signal blocking, reflecting
31 and/or absorbing layer may include a magnetic shielding material, such as Mu metal, to
32 enhance the signal shielding features of the invention.

33 Figure 28(n) is an isolated schematic view of a wireless terminal circuit board
34 (electronic component 138) disposed adjacent to the flexible rechargeable battery 126.
35 The signal absorbing layer 144 (and/or signal blocking layer, signal reflecting layer)
36 may be disposed as a separate structure adjacent to a folded signal shielding battery
37 126, which may or may not include a laminate component signal absorbing layer 144.
38 In accordance with the present invention, as shown in Figure 28(n), the signal shielding
39 battery 126 comprises a thin laminar structure that can be cut, shaped and folded into

1 appropriate dimensions to fit within a case shell of the wireless terminal. By this
2 construction, the signal shielding battery 126 functions both as a signal shielding
3 member and as a rechargeable electrical power source. The obtainable voltage from the
4 signal shielding battery 126 can be adjusted by electrically connecting two or more
5 similarly constructed batteries.

6 An electronic component 138 is provided, such as the circuit components,
7 internal antennae, keyboard, speaker, microphone, etc. of a wireless terminal. A signal
8 shielding battery 126 is disposed adjacent to the electronic component 138. The battery
9 126 is comprised of at least one shielding material (such as the copper mesh 136 of the
10 negative planer electrode side) which is effective for electronically shielding
11 electromagnetic signals, thus reducing unwanted rf signal noise from emanating from
12 or entering into the interior space of the wireless terminal case. As shown, the battery
13 comprises a negative planer electrode disposed at an electrically negative side of the
14 battery. A positive planer electrode is disposed at an electrically positive side of the
15 battery, and an electrolyte member 128 is disposed between the negative planer
16 electrode and the positive planer electrode. Preferably, at least one of the negative
17 planer electrode and the positive planer electrode comprises a material which is effective
18 to act as the shielding material for shielding an electrode magnetic signal. Thus, by this
19 construction, an electromagnetic shield is provided for shielding the electronic
20 component 138 of the wireless terminal from incoming electromagnetic wave signal (to
21 reduce circuit noise), and for shielding electromagnetic wave signal emanating from the
22 electronic component 138 (to prevent exposure of the user and external devices from the
23 electromagnetic signal generated by the components of the wireless terminal).
24 Preferably, as shown in Figure 28(n), the electronic component 138 is electrically
25 grounded to the electrically negative side of the signal shielding battery 126. A circuit
26 ground wire 140 may be soldered or otherwise fixed to the electronic component 138
27 (circuit board) and the copper mesh 136 of the signal shielding battery 126.

28 Figure 28(o) is a cut away perspective top view of a flexible rechargeable
29 battery 126 and a case shell substrate 146 prior to assembly in accordance with a
30 manufacturing aspect of the inventive method for shielding an electronic component
31 138. The flexible rechargeable battery 126 preferably has the structure described above
32 with reference to Figures 23(a) and 23(b). The flexible rechargeable battery 126 is
33 preferably fixed to a case shell substrate 146 using an adhesive 148. The adhesive 148
34 may have signal shielding, reflecting or blocking properties, and may be comprised of,
35 for example, fine Ferro-magnetic particles dispersed within a rubber or epoxy adhesive
36 medium. Prior to assembly, the flexible rechargeable battery 126 and the case shell
37 substrate 146 are substantially flat sheet-like members, and thus can be easily shipped
38 from a place of manufacture to a distant place of assembly. The case shell substrate 146
39 has notches 150 which facilitate folding of the case shell substrate 146. Two of the

edges of the case shell substrate 146 terminate in toothed engaging structures 152 which, as shown in Figure 28(p) mate together and become engaged to retain the case shell substrate 146 and the rechargeable battery 126 in a folded position. By this structure, a wireless terminal case member can be easily formed simply by folding the rechargeable battery 126 and case shell substrate 146 and engaging the toothed engaging structures 152. In accordance with the present invention, the wireless terminal case member is very easy and inexpensive to manufacture, while providing both electromagnetic shielding and a rechargeable battery power supply.

Figure 28(p) shows a cross-section top view of the inventive wireless terminal case member formed from the assembled flexible rechargeable battery 126 and case shell substrate 146 shown in Figure 28(o). As shown, once the flexible rechargeable battery 126 and case shell substrate 146 are folded, and the toothed engaging structures 152 are mated, a electrically shielded interior space 154 is defined within the formed wireless terminal case member. The electrically shielded interior space 154 is electromagnetic shielded to prevent a signal emanating from internally disposed electronic components 138 from reaching the external devices, and also preventing external electromagnetic signal from reaching the electrically shielded interior space 154 of the wireless terminal case member to prevent the unwanted introduction of circuit noise.

Figure 28(q) is a cross-sectional side view taken along line c-c of the assembled flexible rechargeable battery 126 and case shell substrate 146 shown in Figure 28(p). In Figure 28(q), the flexible rechargeable battery 126 has more folds, and thus is shown having more layers than are shown in Figures 24(a) and 24(b). The number of layers, and thus the length of the unfolded, unassembled flexible rechargeable battery 126 will depend on factors such as desired battery life, shielding capabilities, weight, and required interior space 154 of the assembled case shell substrate 146 member. In accordance with the inventive method for shielding an electronic circuit component, the rechargeable battery 126 is formed into a hollow shape defining an electrically shielded interior space 154. An electronic component 138 (wireless terminal circuitry) is disposed within the electrically shielded interior space 154. The interior space 154 defined by the battery is opened at its ends, and thus preferably these ends should be electrically shielded to prevent an electromagnetic signal from entering the electrically shielded interior space 154 and from exiting from the electrically shielded interior space 154. A shielding cap member 156 is fixed to the folded flexible battery to electronically close the open ends. The shielding cap members 156 may be fixed to the folded flexible battery 126 using either or both of a conductive adhesive 148 and a conductive tape (shown in Figure 26(b)).

In accordance with the present invention, the circuit components of a wireless terminal may be disposed within a electrically sealed folded flexible rechargeable battery

1 126 and electrically connected with the battery 126 to enhance the shielding aspects, and
2 to provide a rechargeable power source for the wireless terminal circuitry. Appropriate
3 electrode leads 160 may be provided from the wireless terminal circuitry, through the
4 shielding cap member 156 and electronically connected with a jack 162 so that the
5 electronic wireless terminal circuitry 138 shielded within the electrically shielded interior
6 space 154 can be connected with components and peripheral equipment disposed
7 outside of the electrically shielded interior space 154. In this case, the signal shielding
8 battery 126 may be formed and sealed to create a hollow electrically shielded interior
9 space 154 that is electrically sealed to prevent electromagnetic signal in the form of
10 external noise from effecting the wireless terminal circuitry 138, while preventing an
11 electromagnetic signal generated by the wireless terminal circuitry 138 from exiting the
12 electrically shielded interior space 154. The thus formed flexible rechargeable battery
13 126 containing within a sealed electrically shielded interior space 154 the rf sensitive
14 components of the wireless terminal circuitry 138 may simply be inserted within a case
15 shell substrate 146 which includes the other necessary components for the effective use
16 of the wireless terminal communication. In this case, the folded flexible rechargeable
17 battery 126 and the wireless terminal circuitry 138 disposed within the electrically
18 shielded interior space 154 comprise an easy to install modular unit which can be
19 connected with the non-sensitive rf components of the wireless terminal (not shown)
20 and electrically connected via the jack 162. By this construction, an easy to carry,
21 compact unit is provided which includes a self-contained rechargeable power supply.
22 The wireless terminal circuitry 138 is shielded against electronic noise, and is shielded
23 from emitting harmful signal and/or electronic noise. The self-contained unit may
24 include circuitry 138 containing personal data, such as a wireless terminal number,
25 speed-dial numbers, voice recognition, call log, modem, fax, etc., and may be easily
26 transported by the user and inserted in a variety of devices. For example, rental car
27 companies may provide a terminal system which includes all of the necessary hardware
28 except for that contained within the self-contained unit. A user then merely has to insert
29 the personalized self-contained unit into the terminal hardware supplied with the rental
30 car, to instantly obtain a customized wireless terminal communication device.

31 Figure 28(r) is an isolated enlarged cross-sectional view of an assembled and
32 electrically sealed end of the case shell substrate 146 shown in Figure 28(q). The
33 shielding cap member 156 is adhered to and fixed with the folded flexible rechargeable
34 battery 126 through the use of an electrically conductive seal, such as an electrically
35 conductive adhesive 148 or an electrically conductive tape. As shown, an electrically
36 conductive adhesive 148 is used to completely seal off the electrically shielded interior
37 space 154 so that an electromagnetic signal cannot enter or escape from the electrically
38 shielded interior space 154. Also, the adhesive 148 or tape may comprise appropriate
39 material, such as silicone, epoxy, etc. to provide a water tight seal thus waterproofing

1 the electrically shielded interior space 154. By this construction, a completely
2 waterproof wireless terminal may be easily provided, as will be described in more detail
3 below. In accordance with the present invention, the wireless terminal case member
4 can be easily formed by fixing the flexible rechargeable battery 126 to the case shell
5 substrate 146 so that the case member has at least a portion of at least one wall
6 comprised of the case shell substrate 146 and the battery 126. By this construction, the
7 overall size of the wireless terminal may be greatly reduced, since the interior portion of
8 the wireless terminal includes a rechargeable power source that also functions as a
9 shielding device and as part of the protective case structure. Thus, an external power
10 pack, which is conventionally required, may be obviated. Also, the case shell substrate
11 146 may comprise a thin and flexible material, as opposed to the conventionally
12 required thicker and usually brittle material, since the case member includes both the
13 structural integrity of the case shell substrate 146 and the structural integrity of the
14 flexible rechargeable battery 126. Therefore, in accordance with the present invention,
15 a wireless terminal may be designed having excellent electromagnetic shielding
16 capabilities to prevent unwanted noise and to prevent interference by an electromagnetic
17 signal, while having a substantially reduced size and more durable construction as
18 compared with the conventional art. Also, in accordance with the signal shielding
19 battery construction described above with reference to Figure 28(m), through-holes
20 may be easily formed in the battery to electrically connect the electronic components 138
21 disposed within the electrically shielded interior space 154 with exteriorly disposed
22 components (i.e., external battery pack, antenna, other wireless terminal components,
23 speaker, keyboard, etc.). Thus, in accordance with the present invention, a through-
24 hole may be formed in the signal shielding battery 126, and a conductive wire 164 may
25 be passed through the through-hole and electrically connected with the electronic circuit
26 component 138 (as shown in Figure 25(b)).

27 Referring to Figures 28(s) and 28(t), in accordance with one aspect of the
28 present invention, an antenna assembly 300 is provided for use with a radio signal
29 transmitting device 302. The radio signal transmitting device 302 may be, for example,
30 a cellular telephone, walkie-talkie, personal digital assistant ("PDA"), wireless terminal,
31 computer equipped with wireless communications equipment, mobile fax machine,
32 transmitter/receiver unit of a personal communication service (PCS) system, or other
33 radio signal transmitter and/or receiver. The inventive antenna assembly 300 includes a
34 driven antenna member 304 for transmitting a radio signal from the radio signal
35 transmitting device 302 to a remote receiver, such as a terrestrial cell site, satellite, PCS
36 server, or the like, or to . The radio signal is transmitted outward from a transmission
37 side 306 of the antenna assembly 300, and is blocked from transmission through a
38 shielding side 308 of the antenna assembly 300. To block the transmission of the radio
39 signal, and thus prevent unwanted exposure of the user of the radio signal transmitting

1 device 302, radiation absorbing means 310 is disposed at the shielding side 308.

2 During use of the radio signal transmitting device 302, the radiation absorbing means
3 310 is disposed between the driven antenna member 304 and the user.

4 In accordance with the inventive antenna assembly 300, a first parasitic element
5 312 (reflector) is disposed during use between the driven antenna member 304 and the
6 user. A second parasitic element 314 (director) is disposed at the transmission side 306
7 of the antenna assembly 300. The second parasitic element 314 is disposed during use
8 so that the driven antenna member 304 is between the second parasitic element 314 and
9 the user. A significant increase in the power of the signal transmitted outward and
10 away from the user through the transmission side 306 of the antenna assembly 300 is
11 attained, as compared with a typical conventional antenna assembly 300. This increase
12 in forward signal power attains a substantial increase in the range of the inventive
13 antenna assembly 300, as compared with an antenna having a conventional antenna
14 construction. The radio signal emitted from a conventional antenna propagates
15 outwardly in a substantially uniform circular pattern centered on the antenna.

16 In accordance with the inventive antenna assembly 300, the first and the second
17 parasitic elements 312,314 are disposed from the driven antenna member 304 at a gap
18 distance that is effective to direct a portion of the radio signal toward the transmission
19 side 306 of the antenna assembly 300. The parasitic elements 312,314 act as radio
20 signal reflectors and directors. A dielectric member 316 is disposed in the gap between
21 the first parasitic element 312 and the driven antenna member 304, and in the gap
22 between the driven antenna member 304 and the second parasitic element 314.

23 In accordance with the one embodiment of the inventive antenna assembly 300,
24 the dielectric member 316 may have a high dielectric constant. The dielectric member
25 316 provides support for the parasitic elements 312,314 and the driven antenna member
26 304, and also reduces the necessary gap distance between the driven antenna member
27 304 and the parasitic elements 312,314. The reduction of the gap distance is dependent
28 on the dielectric constant of the dielectric member 316. It is well known that the rate of
29 propagation of a radio signal through a medium is dependent on the dielectric constant
30 of the medium. By providing a dielectric member 316 having a relatively high dielectric
31 constant in the path of the radio signal propagating between the parasitic elements
32 312,314 and the driven antenna, applicants have found that the overall size of the
33 antenna assembly 300 can be reduced. The dielectric member may be comprised of a
34 ceramic, polymer, or other suitable material, such as a ceramic doped with gadolinium,
35 aluminum, calcium, vanadium, holmium.

36 In accordance with the preferred embodiment of the inventive antenna assembly
37 300, the driven antenna member 304 has an effective antenna length that is substantially
38 one half of the wave length of the radio signal transmitted by the radio signal
39 transmitting device 302. In a preferred embodiment, the driven antenna member 304 is

1 comprised of two antenna segments, each having an effective antenna length equal to
2 one quarter of the wave length of the radio signal. The two antenna segments are
3 driven so as to form a dipole driven antenna member 304.

4 The first parasitic element 312 and the second parasitic element 314 preferably
5 each have a length that is about one half of the wave length of the radio signal
6 transmitted by the radio signal transmitting device 302. Also, the dielectric member 316
7 has a thickness and a dielectric constant effective to approximate the gap distance as
8 being an air space gap distance of 1/10th of the wave length of the radio signal
9 transmitted by the radio signal transmitting device 302. This gap distance has been
10 experimentally proven to enable the range extending capabilities of the inventive antenna
11 assembly 300.

12 The dielectric member 316 may be formed from a ceramic, polymer, or other
13 suitable dielectric material. Also, in accordance with the preferred embodiment, the
14 radiation absorber comprises a conductive material dispersed in a non-conductive
15 matrix. The conductive material preferably includes at least one of a conductive free
16 metal, FeO₂, titanium oxide, a ferromagnetic material, carbonyl iron, ferrite oxide,
17 garnet, magnesium, nickel, lithium, yttrium, calcium, vanadium and iron-loaded
18 urethane, neoprene or nitride.

19 Furthermore, in accordance with the preferred embodiment of the inventive
20 antenna assembly 300, the radiation absorbing means 310 includes a first radiation
21 absorber portion 320 that is disposed between the driven antenna member 304 and the
22 metal shell member 318. A second radiation absorber portion 322 is disposed during
23 use of the radio transmitting device adjacent to the metal shell member 318. Further, in
24 accordance with the preferred embodiment of the inventive antenna assembly 300, a
25 dielectric support material 324 is disposed to hold the components of the antenna
26 assembly 300 at fixed relative positions, and to maintain the overall integrity of the
27 antenna assembly 300. Preferably, the dielectric support material 324 has a low
28 dielectric constant, and acts as a filler and support mechanism. The dielectric support
29 material 324 may comprise a foamed polymer, such as polyethylene, polystyrene,
30 Styrofoam, rubber, or the like.

31 The directional antenna described herein is useful for communicating with the
32 inventive multimedia network via a radio transmitting device for transmitting the video
33 data that is displayed on the wireless display terminal and the computer control signals
34 originating from the wireless display terminal. The directional antenna can also be used
35 be used to transmitting wireless modem and telephone data from a radio transmitting
36 device such as a cellular telephone circuit and/or wireless modem. The directional
37 antenna includes a first dielectric segment 326. The first dielectric segment 326 is
38 configured and dimensioned so that during use of the radio signal transmitting device
39 302, the path of at least a portion of the radio signal propagating between the driven

1 antenna member 304 and the first parasitic element 312 passes through the first
2 dielectric segment 326. The driven antenna member 304 is formed by depositing a thin
3 film of conductive material on the surface of a side of the first dielectric segment 326.
4 This thin film driven antenna member 330 may be formed by vacuum depositing,
5 sputtering, print screening, spray coating or other known technique. The conductive
6 material may be a conductive polymer, metal, or the like, such as aluminum, gold,
7 copper or silver. The conductive material may be formed by thick film deposition on a
8 substrate, such as the dielectric segment 14, and then selectively etching the thick film.
9 The thin film driven antenna member 330 is electrically coupled to the communication
10 circuit of the radio signal transmitting device 302. Thus, a signal generated by the
11 communication circuit is transmitted through the use of the thin film driven antenna
12 member 330. A thin film first parasitic element 332 is formed by depositing a
13 conductive thin film on the opposing face of the first dielectric segment 326. Next, a
14 second dielectric segment 328 is provided. A thin film second parasitic element 334 is
15 formed by depositing a conductive material on the appropriate face of the second
16 dielectric segment 328. The first dielectric segment 326 and the second dielectric
17 segment 328 are then brought adjacent to one another and fixed with adhesive so that
18 the thin film driven antenna member 330 is disposed between both the thin film first
19 parasitic element 332 and the thin film second parasitic element 334. Thus, the first
20 dielectric segment 326 having a high dielectric constant is disposed in the path of a
21 portion of the radio signal propagated between the thin film first parasitic element 332
22 and the thin film driven antenna member 330. Similarly, the second dielectric segment
23 328 having a high dielectric constant is disposed in the path of a portion of the radio
24 signal propagated between the thin film second parasitic element 334 and the thin film
25 driven antenna member 330.

26 The components of the shielding side 308 of the inventive antenna assembly
27 300 may be formed by first bending the metal shell member 318 into an appropriate
28 shape, having an appropriate curvature as shown in Figure 28(s). The relatively thin
29 radiation absorber portion 12 is fixed adjacent to the backside of the metal shell member
30 318, and then the relatively thick radiation absorber portion 11 is fixed adjacent to the
31 front side of the metal shell member 318. These components are then brought adjacent
32 to the first dielectric segment 326. The low dielectric support material 324 is filled in
33 place so as to bind the various components of the inventive antenna assembly 300
34 together, and to maintain the integrity of the thus formed system.

35 Figure 29 is a schematic perspective view of a bracelet personal locator for use
36 with the wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network shown in
37 Figure 24. The personal locators include a wireless signal transmitter that sends an
38 identification signal to a device, such as a computer or microprocessor 22, to enable the
39 location of a person to be determined. In this case, if, for example, a phone call comes

1 in for the person, the programs or other content on video and audio devices located
2 nearby can be muted and the devices used to allow communication between the person
3 and the caller in the manners described herein.

4 Figure 30 is a schematic perspective view of a badge-type personal locator for
5 use with the inventive multimedia network shown in Figure 24.

6 Figure 31 is a perspective view of a hand-held personal digital assistant for use
7 with the wireless distribution node of the inventive multimedia network in Figure 24.

8 Figure 32 is a graphic illustration of an addressable unit pulse train and device
9 control signal pulse train.

10 Figure 33 is a block diagram showing a configuration of an addressable
11 multimedia network having a single local channel generator at each node.

12 Figure 33 is a block diagram of another configuration of the inventive
13 addressable multimedia network.

14 Figure 34 is a block diagram showing a configuration of the inventive
15 addressable multimedia network having multiple computer nodes and video device
16 nodes distributed on the network.

17 Figure 35 is a block diagram showing another configuration of the inventive
18 addressable multimedia network having a node with a double local channel generator.

19 Figure 36 is a block diagram showing another configuration of the inventive
20 addressable multimedia network having a three channel high-definition location channel
21 generator.

22 Figure 37 is a block diagram showing another configuration of the inventive
23 addressable multimedia network having a computer node and a computer signal device
24 node.

25 Figure 38 is a block diagram showing a example prototype configuration of the
26 inventive multimedia network.

27 Figure 39 shows some of the windows of the Multimedia Network prototype
28 FaceSpan project.

29 Figure 40 shows some more of the windows of the Multimedia Network
30 prototype FaceSpan project.

31 Figure 41(a) is a schematic diagram of a remote control signal playback circuit
32 module and a remote control signal capture circuit module. The modules connect with a
33 computer (or other remote control signal generator/detector) and the inventive
34 multimedia network to enable the computer to capture and learn the remote control
35 signals remotely generated by an IR generating remote control unit at a device node or at
36 the computer node. These modules allow the computer to "learn" the various remote
37 control codes needed to generate device control signals for controlling devices located
38 remotely on the inventive multimedia network. Figure 41(b) is a schematic diagram of
39 an IR remote control signal playback circuit module and an IR remote control signal

1 capture circuit module for connecting with a computer (or other remote control signal
2 generator/detector) and the inventive multimedia network to enable the computer to
3 capture and learn the remote control signals remotely generated by an IR generating
4 remote control unit at a device node, and to allow the computer to generate device
5 control signals for controlling devices located remotely on the inventive multimedia
6 network. Figure 41(c) is a schematic diagram of an IR detector and emitter unit for use
7 at a device node to be connected via the multimedia network with the IR circuit modules
8 shown in Figures 41(a) and (b) located at a computer node or other remote control
9 signal generating node.

10 The control signal that is captured and that is generated can be an electrical (i.e.,
11 DC pulse), rf, or IR signal. In the case of the electrical and rf signal, the network (such
12 as the phone, coaxial and/or electrical wiring) that the computer node is connected with
13 can be used to transfer the control signals between the computer node and the various
14 device nodes. Further, the rf signal can be transmitted wirelessly to a matching receiver
15 located at the device nodes. The control signals that are received from the devices on
16 the network can be applied as pulse values, voltage values, AC or DC frequency
17 values, current values, etc. The control signals can be converted (if necessary) to an
18 appropriate signal that can be received by one or more of the inputs available for the
19 computer. For example, if the control signal consists of a tone or audio frequency that
20 is recorded on a videotape (as described herein), then the computer can receive the
21 control signal as a signal modulated by a local carrier frequency and inputted through a
22 TV tuner that is internally or externally connected to the computer. The tone frequency
23 control signal is detected by tuning in the local carrier frequency and demodulating the
24 audio signal portion. The computer can then detect the tone signal via software that
25 receives the audio signal and decodes it to detect the particular tone frequency. In the
26 case of DC pulse data control signals, an example of a connection with the computer for
27 detecting such control signals is shown in Figure 41(a). In this case, the "paper empty"
28 pin of the computer's printer port is used to receive the pulse data. The simple circuits
29 shown in Figure 41(a) and 41(b) were modified from circuits that are discussed in an
30 Internet web site (<http://www.ee.washington.edu/eeca/circuits/PCIR/Welcome.html>)
31 where more information on these circuits can be found.

32 The computer receives the control signals from the network and detects various
33 control and device status information. In some cases, it may be advantageous to have a
34 stand-alone detector provided. For example, the device status detector shown in Figure
35 3(m) can be a simple Light detector 76 located at the device node near the TV screen.
36 When the TV is on, the Light detector 76 outputs an "on" value that results in the
37 computer remote control signal generator sending a specific "device on" control signal
38 to the computer. As with the remote control signals that are used for controlling the
39 computer, this "device on" signal may be accompanied by a "handshake" signal that lets

1 the computer know which TV of all the connected TVs is the one that is being detected
2 as being on. In this case, the device status detector can be accomplished via software
3 running on the computer that receives the "device on" control signal and reacts
4 appropriately. The centralized computer can send a polling signal to each of the device
5 nodes and addressable devices requesting the status of the devices connected to the
6 network. The status may include the device's on/off state, current tuner frequency,
7 volume level, etc. If user sensor means are provided, the status may also include the
8 location and identification of users.

9 Figure 42(a) shows a display device screen, such as a television, receiving
10 video data generated by the remotely located computer indicating the initialization of a
11 video intercom call. Figure 42(b) shows a display device screen, such as a television,
12 receiving video data generated by the remotely located computer showing a video
13 intercom call in process. Figure 42(c) shows a display device screen, such as a
14 television, receiving video data generated by the remotely located computer showing the
15 zooming in of the caller's image during a video intercom call.

16 Figure 43 is a flowchart showing the operation of a video intercom conversation
17 in accordance with the present invention.

18 Figure 44(a) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
19 generated by the remotely located computer showing a horizontal split screen with an
20 internet web page and a television program. Figure 44(b) shows a display screen, such
21 as a television, receiving video data generated by the remotely located computer
22 showing a picture-in-a-picture (PIP) split screen with an internet web page and a
23 television program. Figure 44(c) shows a display screen, such as a television,
24 receiving video data generated by the remotely located computer showing a vertical split
25 screen with an internet web page and a television program.

26 Figure 45(a) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
27 generated by the remotely located computer showing a PIP split screen with a first
28 television program shown full screen and a second television program shown in PIP
29 format. Figure 45(b) shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data
30 generated by the remotely located computer showing a PIP split screen with a first
31 television program shown with its screen size altered to fit within one-half the display
32 area and a second and a third television program shown in PIP format. Figure 45(c)
33 shows a display screen, such as a television, receiving video data generated by the
34 remotely located computer showing a horizontal split screen with a first television
35 program resized to fit within the top half the display area and a second television
36 program resized to fit within the bottom half the display area.

37 The flowcharts shown in Figures 46 through 59 illustrate some of the features
38 and product enhancements that are attainable in accordance with the operation of the
39 inventive multimedia network. The control of remotely located devices is enabled

1 through the use of a remote control signal generator under the control of a computer or
2 dedicated microprocessor 22. In particular in the case of a computer, the computer can
3 be located remotely from the devices that it is controlling (and/or remotely from the
4 remote control signal generator), with the inventive multimedia network being used to
5 transfer control signals and data between the computer and the device it is controlling.
6 Through the use of the present invention, a number of the pre-existing video and audio
7 devices become "smart" device that get the advantages of the computational ability and
8 software flexibility of a powerful computer CPU.

9 Figure 46 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
10 software to enable a remotely located device to record a radio program with a content-
11 indicating information signal.

12 Figure 47 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
13 software to enable a remotely located VCR to obtain a commercial skip VCR recording
14 feature in accordance with the present invention.

15 Figure 48 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
16 software to enable a remotely located VCR to obtain another version of the commercial
17 skip VCR recording feature in accordance with the present invention.

18 Figure 49 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
19 software to enable a remotely located VCR to playback a recorded program with the
20 commercial skip feature in accordance with the present invention.

21 Figure 50 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
22 software to enable TV viewing autopilot features in accordance with the present
23 invention.

24 Figure 51 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
25 software to enable a commercial rebound feature in accordance with the present
26 invention.

27 Figure 52 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
28 software to enable parental control features in accordance with the present invention

29 Figure 53 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
30 software to enable additional parental control features in accordance with the present
31 invention.

32 Figure 54 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
33 software to enable a voice-activated child monitor feature in accordance with the present
34 invention.

35 Figure 55 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
36 software to enable a security alert feature in accordance with the present invention.

37 Figure 56 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
38 software to enable scheduling features in accordance with the present invention.

1 Figure 57 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
2 software to enable a home reference system feature in accordance with the present
3 invention.

4 Figure 58 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
5 software to enable an Internet-based alert feature in accordance with the present
6 invention.

7 Figure 59 is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
8 software to enable an email alert feature in accordance with the present invention.

9 Figure 60(a) is a flowchart showing the operation of a computer controlled via
10 software to enable duplication of a video or other recorded information by remotely
11 controlling two or more devices connected with the inventive multimedia network.

12 Figure 60(b) shows a configuration of a set top box for use with the inventive
13 multimedia network. This multimedia network set top box may be a stand-alone
14 accessory device, that works in conjunction with a cable set top box made available to
15 subscribers of a cable television service provider or satellite broadcasting service.
16 Alternatively, to avoid component redundancy, the components of the cable set top box
17 video recorder, internet appliance, and/or the satellite set top box can be incorporated
18 along with the components of the inventive multimedia network set top box and
19 provided as part of the user's subscription cost (as is done with a typical cable or
20 satellite service).

21 In accordance with this aspect of the invention, a network signal is received
22 from a coaxial or other home network signal source. As described herein, this network
23 signal source includes the TV channels that are allotted to the cable television channels.
24 Since different cable television providers make use of different channels, the present
25 invention includes local channels that are outside the frequency range allotted to
26 television channels. Thus, the network signal source may include local channels that
27 are outside the allotted television channels. To allow a user in one room to control a
28 device (such as the present set top box) from another room, computer and device
29 control signals are also included in the network signal source as described herein. To
30 allow the CPU or the present set top box (or a microprocessor 22 or CPU of another
31 computer or device connected to the network) to control appliances and devices
32 remotely, the control signals included in the network signal include device control
33 signals as described herein.

34 A Video PIP generator under the control of the CPU receives the local television
35 channels as well as the television channels that are provided by the cable television
36 provider. A number of tuners can be included to tune in two or more cable (or
37 broadcast or satellite) television channels at once. The CPU controls a local channel
38 selector that selectively connects the demodulated audio and video signals of the local
39 channels from the local channel filters and feeds them to the PIP generator. The

1 demodulated audio and video signals can also be remodulated to, for example, channels
2 3 or 4 (or some other channel) for display on a conventional TV through a direct coaxial
3 connection or via a connection with a VCR or other video device connected to the TV.

4 The output of the PIP generator, as well as other output from devices such as
5 the VCR or DVD player, are received by local television channel generators, which in
6 this embodiment each generate a television channel that is outside the allotted TV
7 channels. It is to be noted that one or more of the local television channels can be
8 carried by frequencies that are within those allocated to the television band, while others
9 are outside the band. This will enable any TV, VCR, etc. to tune one or some of the
10 local channels directly, while a set top box or other device that includes the local
11 channel tuners for outside the band is needed to tune in others. As an example, the
12 network set top box shown here can have the output of its PIP generator modulated to
13 local TV channels 3 or 4 for display on a TV directly connected to the set top box, or
14 connected through another device such as a VCR. And/or the PIP generator output can
15 be modulated to a local channel that is within the range allotted to the TV band, but is
16 unused by the cable provider or usually not viewed by the user. This local channel can
17 be injected into the network source signal so that any TV or VCR or other video device
18 can tune it in directly. At the same time, the video devices, such as VCRs, DVDs, etc.
19 connected to the network can have their outputs modulated to the TV channels that are
20 outside the allotted TV band. The output of these devices is displayed on remote TVs
21 by tuning in the local channel of the remote set top box output (which is under the
22 remote control of the user located where the remote TV is). By this configuration, only
23 one local TV channel has to be "taken" from the allocated TV band, while still allowing
24 any display connected to the network to display the output of any other device
25 connected to the network (provided that the output of the other device is available for
26 tuning in by the network set top box. To accommodate two or more simultaneous users
27 of the output of the network set top box, two or more such set top boxes can be
28 provided on the network (each individually addressed), or a single network set top box
29 can be configured to be capable of creating separate PIP output that is modulated to
30 separate local TV channels (along the lines of the multiple monitor outputs from a single
31 computer as described herein).

32 Figure 60(c) shows an inventive wireless display terminal for use within range
33 of a multimedia network identified on the network via addressable handshake exchange,
34 and for use outside the range of the network for use as a stand-alone personal digital
35 assistant, pager, cellular telephone, etc.

36 Figure 60(d) shows an inventive wireless display terminal in use for controlling
37 devices connected with the multimedia network through control signals communicated
38 via a central computer.

1 Figure 60(e) shows an inventive wireless display terminal connected with a
2 central computer of an inventive multimedia network having multiple computer display
3 local channels.

4 Figure 60(f) shows a variety of wireless display terminals connected and
5 communicating with each other through control signals via a central computer;

6 Figure 60(g) shows a plurality of wireless display terminals in use in a class
7 room setting.

8 Figure 60(h) shows a wireless display terminal connected with a multimedia
9 network having the capability of displaying TV (NTSC) and high-definition (computer
10 monitor, HDTV) display images.

11 Figure 60(i) illustrates a home multimedia network that connects with display,
12 input and control devices throughout the home, and that communicates with a computer
13 system located in a vehicle node when the vehicle is in the home garage.

14 Figure 60(j) illustrates a home multimedia network having content input
15 received through Internet, satellite, cable television, phone line and the like at a central
16 computer and distributed via bridge circuits throughout the home via coaxial cable,
17 phone line and electrical wiring networks.

18 Figure 61 illustrates a child's toy having sensors and input mechanisms used for
19 communicating with a remote computer via a wireless transmission and reception
20 circuitry and display output and toy movement controlled in response to control signals
21 originating from the computer. The inventive toy utilizes actuator wires made from a
22 shape memory alloy (SMA). A SMA exploits a shape memory phenomenon that occurs
23 in certain alloys, such as alloys in the nickel-titanium family. An example of an SMA
24 actuator wire is manufactured by Dynalloy, Inc. of Irvine, CA and sold under the
25 trademark Flexinol. When heated, the SMA actuator wires contract and can exert
26 considerable pulling force as their length shortens. Upon cooling, the SMA actuator
27 wires relax back to their original length. One way of heating the SMA actuator wires is
28 to pass an electrical current through them. The inventive toy utilizes the contraction of
29 the SMA actuator wires heated by a controlled current flow to actuate the mouth or
30 appendages (or other moving parts) of the toy in response to control signals transmitted
31 from the computer. The control signals may be generated by the computer in response
32 to a sensed condition sensed by sensors onboard the toy (or externally disposed) and
33 transmitted wireless to the computer.

34 The inventive toy includes sensing means for sensing a change of state of an internal or
35 external condition. Transmitting means transmits a wireless signal in response to the
36 change of state to a remotely located computer. The remotely located computer has toy
37 signal receiving means for receiving the wireless signal transmitted from the toy. The
38 transmitting means is effective for transmitting audio, video, switch, sensed data and
39 computer control signals generated by the toy. The sensing means may comprise a

1 microphone for sensing a audio condition change of state; a CCD camera for sensing a
2 video condition change of state; a pressure sensitive switch for sensing a pressure
3 condition change of state; a light for sensing a light level condition change of state; a
4 motion sensor for sensing a motion condition change of state; a infrared sensor for
5 sensing an infrared signal condition change of state; comprises a thermal sensor for
6 sensing a thermal condition change of state; and the like.

7 The inventive toy may further comprise computer generated signal receiving means for
8 receiving a wirelessly transmitted computer-generated signal. The computer-generated
9 signal may comprise at least one of a control signal, audio signal, video signal, and data
10 signal. A speaker and/or video display may be included with the toy for receiving and
11 displaying the computer-generated audio signal and video signal. The computer-
12 generated audio and video signal may be transmitted on a local channel, and the toy may
13 include tuning means for tuning in the local channel.

14 The computer can generate a device control signal for use in controlling external
15 devices, such as televisions, VCRs, home automation device, set top boxes, DVD
16 players and the like. The control of these devices may be via control signals generated
17 by the computer in response to voice or pressure switch commands inputted from a user
18 via the toy. The toy may be used to transmit the control signals to the device (or the
19 control signals can be transferred through the network as described herein.) If the toy
20 is to transmit the control signals to the device, Converting means 36 may be provided
21 with the toy for converting the received device control signal into an infrared diode
22 driving signal. An infrared transmitting diode receptive of the infrared diode driving
23 signal emits an infrared signal effective for controlling the remotely located device. The
24 toy may include a microprocessor 22 or other control circuit with the ability to generated
25 the device control signals without communication with the external computer.

26 The receiving means may receive a wirelessly transmitted computer-generated toy
27 control signal. This computer-generated toy control signal is generated by the computer
28 in response to the change of state of an internal or external condition sensed by the toy
29 and transmitted to the computer. Actuating means may be provided that is receptive of
30 the computer-generated control signal for actuating a movable part of the toy. The
31 actuating means may include a memory alloy element capable of undergoing a reversible
32 change in shape in response to heating; a power control circuit for controlling the
33 application of electrical power to heat the memory alloy element; and a power source.

34 The actuating means further includes a thermal sensor for sensing the temperature of the
35 memory alloy element. Thus, a relatively inexpensive toy can be enabled with the
36 computational power of a powerful desktop computer.

37 At the computer end, toy interfacing means is associated with the computer system
38 including computer display local channel generating means; computer generated toy and
39 device control, audio, video and data signal transmitting means; toy generated audio,

1 video, switch and sensed data computer control signal receiving means. By sensing the
2 conditions of the toy and transmitting this sensed data to the computer, a number of
3 useful attributes can be enabled for the toy. For example, by sensing the tilt and motion
4 of the toy the controlled movement via the actuating means can be accomplished under
5 the control of the remotely located computer, enabling artificial intelligence or other
6 software algorithms to effect attributes to the toy that would otherwise be too
7 expensive, complicated or bulky to implement via on-board toy systems.

8 Figure 62(a) is a block diagram showing a bridge circuit for use with the
9 inventive multimedia network for enabling simultaneous two-way audio, video, data
10 and control signals generated by various devices connected to the network to transmit
11 over hard wire networks such as coaxial, phone, electrical and data line as well as for
12 the wireless transmission of such signals. In accordance with this aspect of the
13 invention the bridge circuit includes Wireless signal transmitting means 86 for
14 transmitting at least one of audio, video, data and control signals originating from
15 devices connected via a hard-wired portion of a multimedia network to wireless
16 devices. The wireless devices may include the inventive display terminal, a notebook
17 computer having the inventive wireless expansion module installed, the inventive
18 wireless personal digital assistant and the like.

19 Wireless signal receiving means receives at least one of audio, video, data and control
20 signals originating from the wireless devices. Channel tuning means 90 tunes a channel
21 comprising at least one of the audio and video signals originating from devices
22 connected via a hard-wired portion of a multimedia network for transmission to the
23 wireless device. The device connected via the hard-wired portion include VCRs,
24 computers, DVD players, video recorders, set top boxes, satellite receives, home
25 automation units, appliances, stereos, telephone systems, and the like.

26 Connecting means connects the hard-wired portion of the multimedia network to the
27 wireless signal receiving means so that said at least one of audio, video, data and
28 control signals originating from the wireless devices can be transmitted to and received
29 by the devices connected via the hard-wired portion. The connecting means includes
30 signal transmission lines, combiners/splitters, diode and diode-type circuits, filter
31 circuits, amplifying circuits, signal conditioners and the like for making a suitable
32 connection between and among devices connected on coaxial, phone line, electrical
33 power line, and data line hard-wire networks, as well as wireless networks and
34 devices.

35 The connecting means may also include amplifying means for amplifying at least one of
36 said at least one audio, video, data and control signals originating from the wireless
37 devices and/or from the hard-wired connected devices. The connecting means may
38 further include impedance matching means for matching the impedance at least one of
39 said at least one audio, video, data and control signals.

1 Incoming control signal detecting means 94 detects control signals received from the
2 wireless devices. Controlling means controls channel tuning means 90 to tune in a
3 channel available for transmission from the network depending on the detected control
4 signal. Thus, the wireless device is capable of controlling which channel from a
5 possibly large selection of cable, satellite, local device, local computer channels to tune
6 in for transmission to the wireless device (alternatively, the wireless device can include
7 the tuner onboard, and the signal transmitted to it from the network may include all or a
8 portion of the available channels).

9 The inventive bridge circuit includes local channel generating means for generating a
10 wireless device local channel comprising at least one of the audio and video signals
11 received by the wireless signal receiving means from the wireless device. The local
12 channel generating means may comprise modulating means for modulating said at least
13 one of the audio and video signals by a carrier channel frequency tunable by at least one
14 device connected to the network. The carrier frequency may be within the range allotted
15 for television channels, or outside that range.

16 The wireless signal transmitting means 86 can include a microwave frequency
17 transmitter for transmitting at least one microwave frequency audio, video, control and
18 data signal originating from the wireless device. The frequency may be within the 900
19 MHz and 2.4 GHz bands available for local short distance communication.

20 Incoming control signal detecting means 94 detects control signals received from the
21 wireless devices. The control signals can be generated by the wireless device to control
22 the computer and other device connected to the network directly (such as through the
23 use of a universal remote control signal generator or algorithm). Alternatively, the
24 control signals can be directed only for controlling a centralized computer, and the
25 centralized computer can generate device control signals for indirect control of devices
26 connected to the network by signals originating from the wireless device. The
27 controlling means may control the local channel generating means to generate the
28 wireless device local channel depending on the detected control signal, or it may be
29 indirectly controlled via the central computer.

30 The inventive bridge circuit may also include control or data signal detecting means for
31 detecting a control or data signal originating from the devices connected via the hard-
32 wired portion. The Wireless signal transmitting means 86 may include a wireless signal
33 transmitter for receiving the detected control or data signal and converting it to a radio
34 frequency control or data signal for transmission to the wireless device. The control
35 signal or data signal detecting means may include means for converting a direct current
36 control or data signal to an infrared control or data signal. The Wireless signal
37 transmitting means 86 may include a wireless signal transmitter including an infrared-
38 to-radio frequency converter for receiving the infrared signal from the control signal or
39 data signal detecting means and converting it to a radio frequency for transmission to

1 the wireless device. The control or data signal detecting means may include means for
2 converting a direct current control or data signal to a radio frequency control or data
3 signal. The wireless signal transmitting means 86 may include a wireless signal
4 transmitter for receiving the radio frequency control or data signal for transmission to
5 the wireless device. The control signal or data signal detecting means may include
6 filtering means for filtering a direct current control or data signal from other signals
7 received from the hard-wired portion. The wireless signal transmitting means 86 may
8 include a wireless signal transmitter for receiving the direct current control or data signal
9 and converting it to a radio frequency control or data signal for transmission to the
10 wireless device. The wireless signal receiving means may include a microwave
11 frequency receiver for receiving at least one microwave frequency audio, video, control
12 and data signal originating from the wireless device.

13 In accordance with the present invention, wireless devices can be connected via the
14 bridge circuit that is hard-wire or wirelessly connected to another bridge circuit and
15 wirelessly connected to another wireless device to connect the two wireless devices.
16 All of the device control signals may originate from the computer, in response to
17 computer control signals (e.g., user-inputted remote controls) or computer algorithms
18 (e.g., scheduling, alerts), and thus the computer will be capable of determining the state
19 (on, off, channel selection, volume, tape in, time left on tape, etc.) of the various
20 devices.

21 Figure 62(b) shows an expansion module for use with a pre-existing notebook or
22 desktop computer to enable simultaneous two-way way audio, video, data and control
23 signals generated by various devices connected to the network with the pre-existing
24 computer. The expansion module includes expansion module interfacing means for
25 interfacing with a computer expansion port. Local channel radio frequency receiving
26 means is in communication with the computer through the expansion module interfacing
27 means. The local channel radio frequency receiving means receives a radio signal
28 channel containing at least one of a video and audio signal originating from an external
29 audio and/or video signal generating device. A user input interfacing means is provided
30 for interfacing with a user input device 18 of the computer and generating a user input
31 signal. For example, the keyboard or mouse input device of the notebook computer is
32 interfaced with the inventive expansion module through the user input interfacing
33 means. Control signal generating means generates control signals in response to the
34 user input signal for controlling the generation of the at least one video and audio signal
35 originating from the external audio and/or video signal generating device. Control signal
36 radio frequency transmitting means wirelessly transmits the control signals to the
37 external audio and/or video signal generating device.

38 The external audio and/or video signal generating device may comprise a second
39 computer, such as a central computer connected to the network via the inventive bridge

1 circuit, having a wireless transmitter connected to at least one of a video and audio
2 output of the external audio and/or video signal generating device for generating the
3 radio signal channel. The external audio and/or video signal generating device may also
4 be at least one of a video recorder, VCR, phone system, CCD camera, stereo, radio,
5 CD player, set top box or DVD player having a wireless transmitter connected to at least
6 one of a video and audio output of the external audio and/or video signal generating
7 device for generating the radio signal channel.

8 A radio frequency transmitting means transmits at least one of a video and audio signal
9 to the external audio and/or video signal generating device. The video and audio signal
10 comprises the output of the computer connected to the expansion module. The
11 expansion module interfaces with the computer via a single or combination of
12 expansion ports, such as PCI slots, parallel and serial ports, monitor and video output
13 ports, speaker and microphone ports, and the like.

14 Computer video signal connecting means 92 connects with a monitor video signal
15 source of the computer. The radio frequency transmitting means may receive a monitor
16 video signal of the computer for transmission to the external audio and/or video signal
17 generating device. A CCD video signal Connecting means connects with a CCD video
18 signal source associated with the computer. The radio frequency transmitting means
19 may receive a CCD video signal for transmission to the external audio and/or video
20 signal generating device. Switching means may be provided for switching between the
21 output of the Computer video signal connecting means 92 and the CCD video signal
22 Connecting means and generating a video source output. The radio frequency
23 transmitting means the video source output of the Switching means for transmission to
24 the external audio and/or video signal generating device.

25 Figure 62(c) shows a prototype configuration demonstrating the feasibility of
26 the inventive bridge circuit and expansion module shown in Figures 62(a) and 62(b).

27 Figure 62(d) shows an alternative embodiment of the inventive expansion
28 module including a removable video/audio/control signal transmitter. In accordance
29 with this embodiment of the inventive expansion module, interfacing means is
30 provided for interfacing with a computer expansion port. Local channel radio
31 frequency receiving means in communication with the computer through the expansion
32 module interfacing means receives a radio signal channel containing at least one of a
33 video and audio signal originating from an external audio and/or video signal generating
34 device. User input interfacing means interfaces with a user input device 18 of the
35 computer and generating a user input signal. Control generating means generates
36 control signals in response to the user input signal for controlling the generation of the
37 at least one video and audio signal originating from the external audio and/or video
38 signal generating device. Control signal radio frequency transmitting means wirelessly
39 transmits the control signals to the external audio and/or video signal generating device.

1 A removable signal transmitter is provided including at least one of a CCD camera,
2 microphone and control signal generator; an expansion module interface for removably
3 connecting the removable signal transmitter with the expansion module. The removable
4 signal transmitter may be used to control the external computer and device (directly or
5 through the various network connections described herein), and may be used to control
6 the computer connected with the inventive expansion module. The video and/or audio
7 signal transmitted from the removable signal transmitter may be received and displayed
8 by the devices connected to the network, and/or may be received and displayed by the
9 computer connected with the expansion module.

10 Computer video signal connecting means 92 can be provided for connecting with a
11 monitor video signal source of the computer. Switching means may be included for
12 switching between the output of the Computer video signal connecting means 92 and
13 the removable signal transmitter and generating a video source output.

14 Figure 63(a) illustrates an inventive home or office network configuration,
15 comprising a home or office network module connected to at least one I/O port and a
16 monitor port of a computer a second network module connected at a multimedia device
17 (VCR).

18 Figure 63(b) is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of a multimedia
19 device transceiver 32 network module and a computer transceiver 32 network module.

20 Figure 63(c) illustrates an inventive home or office network configuration
21 having a wireless network communication with a wireless display terminal wireless
22 display terminal via at least one antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate.

23 Figure 63(d) is a block diagram illustrating a configuration of the home or office
24 network with a wireless signal communication between the wireless display terminal
25 and the computer transceiver 32 network module via the directional antenna coax
26 faceplate.

27 Figure 63(e) illustrates the use of the inventive antenna node device directional
28 antenna coax faceplate for creating a clear consistent wireless signal within a networked
29 home or office. Directional antennas are located throughout the home, thus creating a
30 multi-path for the signal and reducing the problems of sending and receiving antennas
31 orientation and distance. The problems of multi-path cancellation nodes can be
32 addressed by employing antenna diversity, that is, providing a pair of antenna members
33 separated by an appropriate distance so that if one antenna is located in a cancellation
34 node, the other is likely to not be located in a cancellation node.

35 Our goal is to create a controllable, high security, low emission, clear and consistent
36 wireless signal zone anywhere desired within the office or home. Our focus is on network-
37 enhancing devices we are calling antenna node devices 200. antenna node devices 200 are
38 antenna nodes that connect with pre-existing wire networks and act as a bridge between
39 wireless devices and the hardwire network.

1 The use of the pre-existing wire network creates an efficient and effective transmission path
2 for connectivity between the antenna node devices 200 and devices connected to the coax.
3 The use of wireless network components creates the opportunity for mobility and avoids
4 the problems associated with installing new wires.
5 In the home environment, the antenna node devices 200 should be able to work with a
6 typical pre-existing coax cable network. This will require the ability to convert a wireless
7 2.4 Ghz signal to 900 Mhz (or less) so that the signal will travel well through splitters on
8 the network.
9 In the office environment, the antenna node devices 200 work with a typical Ethernet
10 network, allowing a wireless Ethernet device to access the wired Ethernet.
11 Direct current power is injected onto the signal line (+) and the shielding (-) of the coax
12 cable from an external source. DC filtering (capacitor) may be needed for the blocking
13 interference with the audio/video and data signals carried on the coax.
14 The inventive system overcomes the problems of creating a computer and/or A/V network
15 within a pre-existing home or office environment. The pre-existing wire network provides a
16 great transmission path for networking devices, but usually terminals to this wire network
17 are not conveniently available. Wireless networking systems avoid the terminal issue, but
18 signal attenuation due to building materials and other factors limits the wireless network.
19 Of course, one solution would be to simply boost the transmitted signal strength.
20 However, this approach would create undesired security, interference and regulatory
21 issues. Realizing that the installation of new wires is often not practical, the present
22 invention provides a hybrid network solution that combines new wireless devices with pre-
23 existing infrastructure, such as cable television (home) or Ethernet (office) wire networks.
24 The inventive networking solution creates a controllable "zone of coverage" of wireless
25 network signals, and at the same time makes the audio, video and data carried by these
26 signals available by devices connected directly to the coax. For example, in the case of a
27 coax network, antenna node devices 200 allow the coax to be used as a transmission
28 medium to extend the range (and reduce the required transmission source power output) of
29 the wireless signal.
30 The antenna node devices 200 will receive a 2.4 GHz signal originating from a wireless
31 transmitting source, amplify and down convert the signal to 900 Mhz, and inject the 900
32 Mhz signal onto the coax network. The antenna node devices 200 will also receive a 900
33 Mhz signal from another antenna node device or a 900 Mhz transmitting source, amplify
34 and up convert it to 2.4 GHz, and then transmit the 2.4Ghz signal to a wireless receiving
35 device. The antenna node device is powered from a low voltage DC source injected onto
36 the coax, with onboard controlling means to control the amplification level at each antenna
37 node device so that only as much of a signal needs to be radiated as is required for clear
38 reception by a particular receiving device.

1 Very often the home computer is not located near a terminal of this coax network. The
2 computer network module creates an analog and/or digital wireless computer signal from,
3 for example, the computer monitor and speaker output (analog) or through a USB, serial or
4 parallel port (digital). This wireless computer signal is transmitted to a antenna node device
5 where it is injected onto the coax network. The computer signal is then received by a TV
6 network module and converted to a local television channel that can be tuned in by any
7 television connected to the coax network. Further, another antenna node device receives
8 the computer signal and re-transmits it as a wireless signal to a receiving device, such as the
9 wireless display terminal (wireless display terminal). As shown, a second computer may
10 be networked to the first computer (wireless digital data) via the antenna node devices 200
11 and the pre-existing coax. Thus, the computer monitor and speaker output is available on
12 any television in the home, and is wirelessly available as a relatively low emission
13 anywhere in the home. Also, the computer can be network with other digital devices
14 anywhere in the home.

15 As an example, if a computer is located in a room at one end of the house (with or without a
16 coax terminal), in accordance with the present invention (1) transmit a wireless carrier
17 frequency signal containing audio, video and data to a antenna node device, (2) convert the
18 signal if necessary to a carrier frequency that travels over the home coax network without
19 interfering with the cable television channels), (3) receive the signal by another antenna
20 node device somewhere else on the coax network, (4) convert the signal back to the original
21 wireless carrier frequency, and (5) emit the wireless signal via a directional antenna so that
22 it can be received by another wireless device. The use of the wire network as a
23 transmission path between rooms allows the radiated power level to be kept low
24 everywhere in the home, and still have a clear and consistent signal available any where in
25 the home (and yard).

26 As another example, a pre-existing wired Ethernet network is installed on a few of the
27 computers in an office. Typically, adding additional computers to this Ethernet network
28 would require the expense and difficulty of stringing new wires. However, with the hybrid
29 wired/wireless networking solution created by the antenna node devices 200, additional
30 computers can be connected very easily.

31 In many home installations there is no one wired network available that can carry data from
32 a source location (in this case, a computer) to any room in the home. Wireless rf
33 networking systems are less than adequate due to attenuation of the rf signal within the
34 home because of, for example, the absorption and reflection of the rf signal when it
35 encounters typical home building materials such as drywall, foil-backed insulation, concrete
36 block, etc. Simply boosting the antenna power output from the point source of the signal
37 (in this example, the location of the computer) to the receiving antenna (in this case, the
38 mobile wireless display terminal wireless display terminal) is often not an effective
39 solution. For such point-to-point transmission to be effective, the signal power may have

1 to be boosted to a level that exceeds the maximum FCC (or other regulatory body)
2 limitations. Also, the boosting of the antenna output may be undesirable in situations
3 where the signal will interfere with other devices, or be susceptible to eavesdropping be
4 neighbors, etc.

5 To overcome this problem, a combination of antenna node device antenna nodes can be
6 installed at suitable locations throughout the home. A video signal (can be any combination
7 of data, video, audio, control, etc.) originating from a computer is injected onto a coax
8 cable network in the home. This signal is carried over the coax network to a coax network
9 antenna node where it is amplified and wirelessly transmitted to a powerline connected rf
10 repeater unit. The signal carried on the coax may be up converted or down converted to a
11 suitable carrier frequency for improved transmission over the coax, and then up converted
12 or down converted, as necessary, for rf transmission between the coax network antenna
13 node and the powerline connected rf repeater unit. The powerline connected rf repeater unit
14 may be a passive device which receives the rf signal from the coax antenna node and
15 amplifies and retransmits it as an rf signal (up converting and down converting can be
16 performed by a mixer associated with the powerline connected rf repeated if needed). The
17 rf signal emitted by the powerline connected rf repeater is received by a phoneline antenna
18 node which is within range of the transmitted signal. The signal may again be amplified,
19 down converted or up converted, as needed so that it can be carried by the phoneline wired
20 network (without interfering with other signals carried on the network such as voice, data,
21 etc.). This signal is received at a second phoneline antenna node, where again it can be up
22 converted, down converted, amplified (or attenuated) as needed so that it is optimally
23 conditioned for transmission to the wireless display terminal wireless display terminal
24 without exceeding regulatory power limits, and with less susceptibility to unauthorized
25 reception.

26 In this way, the signal originating from the computer is transmitted over the pre-existing
27 hardwired home networks (coax and telephone) with a powerline connected rf repeater
28 bridging the two wired networks, for ultimate reception by a wireless display terminal. In
29 this example, the wireless display terminal is located at a room in the home where direct
30 point-to-point transmission from the computer to the wireless display terminal would have
31 been inadequate due to signal attenuation. Of course, this example is for illustrative
32 purposes and, for example, the powerline connected rf repeater unit may not be necessary
33 (that is, the bridging of the coax and phoneline networks could be direct between their
34 respective antenna nodes).

35 Figure 64(a) is a front view of an embodiment of the inventive antenna node
36 device directional antenna coax faceplate.

37 Figure 64(b) is a perspective view of the embodiment of the inventive antenna
38 node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown in Figure 64(a).

1 Figure 64(c) is an isolated perspective view of a directional antenna and coax
2 connector of the inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown
3 in Figure 64(a).

4 Figure 64(d) is an isolated side view of a directional antenna and coax connector
5 of the inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown in Figure
6 64(a).

7 Figure 65(a) is an isolated side view of the directional and coax connector of the
8 inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown in Figure 64(a)
9 connected to a coax network. the controllable frequency filter keeps the channels that
10 the user does not want emitted wirelessly from being transmitted to the directional
11 antenna. used to keep "secure" data channels from exiting the coaxial network, but
12 controllable so that these channels can be transmitted when the user desires a wireless
13 connection the secure channels. Alternatively, the filter can be preset with some
14 channels, say channel 1 of the 2.4GHz band always blocked from transmission to the
15 wireless antennas and otherwise out of the home hardwired networks. This channel is
16 then the secure channel, with data being carried by this channel's frequency being block
17 from exiting the home's coax or other hardwire networks. Further, the data on the
18 secure channel can be handshake packetized and/or encrypted, with only those devices
19 that have the appropriate handshake or encryption key able to read the data

20 Figure 65(b) is block diagram of an embodiment of the directional and coax
21 connector of the inventive antenna node device directional antenna coax faceplate shown
22 in Figure 65(a). In response to addressed control signals, the controlling means
23 controls which channels are transmitted via the directional antenna, and at what power
24 level the channels are transmitted. If necessary, a capacitor keeps power steady even
25 when dc control signals are transmitted. Supplied low voltage power is received from
26 the coax (injected by one of the devices on the network) to the circuit components.

27 Figure 65(c) illustrates a home or office networked home having antenna node
28 devices 200 (the inventive antenna node device 200) connected at various terminal ends
29 of a pre-existing coax network, and further illustrating the inventive capabilities of
30 wireless signal attenuation within the zone of coverage. When the wireless display
31 terminal (the inventive wireless display terminal) is stationary, such as when the user is
32 sitting on a couch, the power output of the "best" antenna is reduced to a level that is
33 just above the level required for a clear, consistent signal. The power output of the
34 other antennas can be attenuated fully, unless they are communicating with other
35 devices

36 Figure 65(d) illustrates a home or office networked home having antenna node
37 devices 200 connected at various terminal ends of a pre-existing coax network, and
38 further illustrating the inventive capabilities of wireless signal handoff between two
39 antenna node devices 200 within the zone of coverage. When the wireless display

1 terminal is moved to another room, a "hand-off" occurs between the antenna in
2 previous room and the antenna in the next room.

3 Figure 65(e) illustrates a home or office networked home having a combination
4 of coaxial antenna node devices 200 and phoneline antenna node devices 200 installed,
5 along with a powerline connected rf repeater unit 202, for creating a zone of coverage
6 throughout a home. In many home installations there is no one wired network available
7 that can carry data from a source location (in this case, a computer) to any room in the
8 home. Wireless rf networking systems are less than adequate due to attenuation of the
9 rf signal within the home because of, for example, the absorption and reflection of the
10 rf signal when it encounters typical home building materials such as drywall, foil-
11 backed insulation, concrete block, etc. Simply boosting the antenna power output from
12 the point source of the signal (in this example, the location of the computer) to the
13 receiving antenna (in this case, the mobile wireless display terminal wireless display
14 terminal) is often not an effective solution. For such point-to-point transmission to be
15 effective, the signal power may have to be boosted to a level that exceeds the maximum
16 FCC (or other regulatory body) limitations. Also, the boosting of the antenna output
17 may be undesirable in situations where the signal will interfere with other devices, or be
18 susceptible to eavesdropping by neighbors, etc. To overcome this problem, a
19 combination of the inventive antenna node device antenna nodes can be installed at
20 suitable locations throughout the home. In the example shown in Figure 65(e), a video
21 signal (can be any combination of data, video, audio, control, etc.) originating from a
22 computer is injected onto a coax cable network in the home. This signal is carried over
23 the coax network to a coax network antenna node where it is amplified and wirelessly
24 transmitted to a powerline connected rf repeater unit 202. The signal carried on the
25 coax may be up converted or down converted to a suitable carrier frequency for
26 improved transmission over the coax, and then up converted or down converted, as
27 necessary, for rf transmission between the coax network antenna node and the
28 powerline connected rf repeater unit 202. The powerline connected rf repeater unit 202
29 may be a passive device which receives the rf signal from the coax antenna node and
30 amplifies and retransmits it as an rf signal (up converting and down converting can be
31 performed by a mixer associated with the powerline connected rf repeated if needed).
32 The rf signal emitted by the powerline connected rf repeater is received by a phoneline
33 antenna node which is within range of the transmitted signal. The signal may again be
34 amplified, down converted or up converted, as needed so that it can be carried by the
35 phoneline wired network (without interfering with other signals carried on the network
36 such as voice, data, etc.). This signal is received at a second phoneline antenna node,
37 where again it can be up converted, down converted, amplified (or attenuated) as
38 needed so that it is optimally conditioned for transmission to the wireless display
39 terminal wireless display terminal without exceeding regulatory power limits, and with

1 less susceptibility to unauthorized reception. In this way, the signal originating from
2 the computer is transmitted over the pre-existing hardwired home networks (coax and
3 telephone) with a powerline connected rf repeater bridging the two wired networks, for
4 ultimate reception by a wireless display terminal. In this example, the wireless display
5 terminal is located at a room in the home where direct point-to-point transmission from
6 the computer to the wireless display terminal would have been inadequate due to signal
7 attenuation. Of course, this example is for illustrative purposes and, for example, the
8 powerline connected rf repeater unit 202 may not be necessary (that is, the bridging of
9 the coax and phoneline networks could be direct between their respective antenna
10 nodes).

11 Figure 66(a) is a side view illustrating a antenna node device having a
12 directional antenna disposed at a signal optimizing angle. The directional antenna may
13 be preset at an angle so that the orientation of the radiation emitting/receiving element is
14 appropriate of the best signal transmission between the emitting/receiving element
15 located at the faceplate height (

16 Figure 66(b) is a perspective view of the antenna node device shown in Figure
17 66(a).

18 Figure 66(c) is a perspective view of a antenna node device accessory antenna
19 system for connecting with a pre-existing coax faceplate.

20 Figure 66(d) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device configuration
21 comprising a wireless video/audio/data and control signal circuit for use within the
22 inventive home or office network.

23 Figure 66(e)) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device
24 configuration comprising a wireless video/audio/data and control signal circuit for use
25 within the inventive home or office network, including a phone jack connection and a
26 voltage peak filter for detecting dc control and data signals included as voltage peaks
27 superimposed on a constant dc power supply signal.

28 Figure 66(f) is a graph illustrating the dc control and data signals included as
29 voltage peaks superimposed on a constant dc power supply signal.

30 Figure 66(g) illustrates an obverse side of a printed circuit board construction of
31 the inventive circuit for an embodiment of the antenna node device, the circuit including
32 a rf signal amplifier and rf mixer for optimizing the signal transmission carried over the
33 coax network, while allowing for a wireless signal within a suitable bandwidth (e.g.,
34 2.4 GHz).

35 Figure 66(h) illustrates a reverse side of the printed circuit board construction of the
36 inventive circuit shown in Figure 66(g).

37 Figure 66(i) is a perspective view of a antenna node device accessory antenna system
38 for connection with a pre-existing coax faceplate.

1 Figure 66(j) is a perspective view of a antenna node device stand-alone antenna system
2 for connection with a pre-existing coax terminal connector.
3 Figure 66(k) is a perspective view of a antenna node device directional antenna coax
4 faceplate for replacement of a pre-existing coax faceplate.
5 Figure 66(l) is a block diagram illustrating a prototype construction embodiment of the
6 inventive home or office network.
7 Figure 67(a) is a flowchart showing the operation of an inventive analog scrambler. The
8 inventive analog scrambler can be used to add data security between networked devices,
9 wired and wireless. If two or more transceiver 32 pairs are simultaneously using the
10 available carrier bandwidth for communication, the central computer (microprocessor
11 22, Gateway device, etc.) can calculate the frequency adjustment and sync signal timing
12 values so that there is no signal interference. The use of the handshake value received
13 by the mobile terminal (or other device) allows a single central computer to effectively
14 control the analog scrambling for two or more different data streams. For security, the
15 two devices can be hardwired together for the exchange of the handshake value and
16 frequency adjustment function. The transmission of the sync signal may obviate the
17 need for a timing function.
18 Figure 67(b) is an example of the sync signal and frequency adjustment in accordance
19 with the inventive analog scrambler. Frequency f = the center of the carrier wave band
20 which is about 2 GHz +/- some function-determined value where the value of f is
21 within the range of the 2.4 GHz allotted channels. The frequency band can be any of
22 the licensed or unlicensed frequency bands available, most notably, the frequencies
23 around 900MHz, 2.4GHz and 5 GHz.
24 Figure 68(a) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device configuration for use
25 with a phone line network, and including device locating circuitry for use in
26 determining the location of devices within the inventive home or office network. In
27 accordance with the antenna node devices described herein, two or more antenna
28 members can be provided, each optimized for a particular frequency range (such as
29 UHF, VHF, 900 Mhz, 2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, etc.) . In any of the devices (wireless display
30 terminals, antenna nodes, set top boxes, accessory boxes, etc.) described herein,
31 antenna diversity can be employed to prevent the problems of multi-path cancellation.
32 The components of the various configurations of the inventive antenna node can be
33 provided in any suitable combination, each configuration shown may or may not show
34 every component that would be in a working version
35 Figure 68(b) is a block diagram illustrating a antenna node device configuration
36 for use with a power line network for communicating wireless and hardwired signals
37 transmitted within the inventive home or office network. The antenna member(s) can be
38 configured and dimensioned for transmission/reception of various RF frequencies,
39 including but not limited to the licensed and unlicensed frequencies as designated by the

1 FCC. The controllable filters/amplifiers/attenuators are under the control of a
2 microprocessor 22 or the central computer so that the power and frequency of the RF
3 signal emitted from the antenna member(s) is selective. In response to addressed control
4 signals, the controlling means controls which channels are transmitted via the
5 directional antenna, and at what power level the channels are transmitted.

6 Figure 69(a) is a flowchart showing the steps of determining the appropriate
7 signal power transmitted from antenna nodes within the inventive home or office
8 network;

9 Figure 69(b) is a flowchart showing the steps of determining the location of a
10 device located within the inventive home or office network. This technique can be used
11 to find wireless remotes, keyboards, children (with the inventive personal locator),
12 wireless display terminals, etc. A map of the home can be obtained by bringing a
13 wireless device to the corner of each room and, through software, noting where the
14 room corners are (location determined relative to antenna nodes). The radius R of the
15 identified device and each antenna node can be obtained by determining the delay
16 between the transmission of the "location finder" handshake from each antenna node(as
17 controlled by central computer or microprocessor 22) and the reception of the
18 corresponding location "ping" from the device.

19 Figure 69(c) is a flowchart showing the steps of determining the appropriate
20 signal power transmitted between antenna nodes and wireless devices within the
21 inventive home or office network.

22 Figure 69(d) illustrates the determination of the location of a device by detecting
23 the distance between the device and two or more antenna nodes within the inventive
24 home or office network.

25 Figure 69(e) is a flowchart showing the steps of using a frame buffer to limit the
26 display degradation due to the disruption of a video signal transmitted to a device
27 connected to the inventive home or office network.

28 Figure 69(f) is a flowchart showing the steps of compensating for microwave
29 oven interference when transmitting data to a device connected with the inventive home
30 or office network.

31 Figure 69(g) is a flowchart showing the steps of compensating for microwave
32 or other pulsating interference when transmitting video data to a device connected with
33 the inventive home or office network.

34 Figure 70(a) illustrates the use of the inventive wireless display device for
35 displaying Internet and intranet content in external network environments, such as
36 schools, airports, airplanes, grocery stores and the like. Each wireless display terminal
37 logs into the network by a handshake (like a cellular telephone). The wireless display
38 terminal is then allocated a specific "slice" of the available spectrum and transmission
39 timing - like a mainframe communicating with a bunch of users on dumb terminals.

1 For data such as internet data, a single frame or portion thereof (webpage) is all that
2 needs to be transmitted to each user before another user can be allocated the
3 transmission "space". Each user is given a sync code from the Gateway so that his
4 wireless display terminal knows when to expect the next frame (e.g., webpage)
5 reception (if there is one ready for him) and so that the Gateway knows when to expect
6 data (such as hyperlink clicks) from the user. The webpages for the users are buffered
7 at the Gateway. Preferably, a full page is received and buffered before it is transmitted
8 to the user. It may be transmitted as a single video frame, with the hyperlinks mapped
9 in the manner described herein. The user's hyperlink selection is transmitted to the
10 Gateway in the form of an RF signal containing the grid coordinate which is compared
11 with the hyperlink map to determine which hyperlink has been clicked. The grid
12 coordinate can be determined from a "standard" origin, such as the top left corner of the
13 webpage (the grid can be resized if the page is resized to accommodate page scrolling
14 and resizing). The data that is transmitted between the wireless display terminal display
15 and the Gateway consists of video frame-type pages from the Gateway to the wireless
16 display terminal and hyperlink grid coordinates from the wireless display terminal to the
17 Gateway. Other data, such as handshake information can be included with the
18 transmissions to ensure that the Gateway "knows" which wireless display terminal is
19 communicating with it and so that the wireless display terminal "knows" that it is its
20 data being received. The handshake information can also be used to enable more
21 efficient communication between the Gateway and multiple users - optimizes idle time
22 because data can be sent or received out of sync order. Can also provide prioritization
23 of communication allowing, for example, a preferred wireless display terminal to gain
24 Gateway access ahead of others. Otherwise, if a frame is not ready for that user, then
25 he has to wait until his next "sync time" until he can get another. wireless display
26 terminals are capable of analog and digital reception. The analog channels may be be
27 used for "public" data, or when receiving multimedia signals in the home. The digital
28 reception may be used for encrypted data reception when in the public network, to
29 allow private web browsing, email, etc. through the Gateways.

30 Figure 70(b) is a flowchart showing the steps of transmitting, receiving and
31 displaying Internet and intranet content on networked display devices. A start page is
32 broadcasted from the Gateway for reception by display devices used by users located
33 within the range of the Gateway network (can be wireless or wired broadcast). The
34 start page may be, for example, a web browser "portal" page stored on the Gateway
35 that is the first page transmitted to any display unit when it begins an Internet session or
36 otherwise wishes to receive information (television channels, intranet content, closed-
37 circuit video, etc.) from the Gateway source. The start page can include links to
38 intranet sites (for example, in an airport environment, it may include flight information,
39 terminal map, driving directions, rental car and airline information, etc.). Some of the

1 intranet data can be refreshed from the Internet connection - i.e. traffic and weather
2 reports. Since this type of data is likely to be frequently accessed by different user, it
3 can be cached as part of the intranet data, and periodically refreshed, thus obviating the
4 need for individual access to certain Internet pages. The Internet-based alert system
5 described herein can be employed to ensure that "breaking" news from the Internet is
6 quickly available as intranet data. The start-page can be transmitted on a "public"
7 channel - available simultaneously to all the display device in the network. Once a
8 display device sends it first hyperlink request - i.e., the grid coordinates of one of the
9 hyperlinks on the start page, along with its identifying handshake- a "private"
10 connection channel is formed between the display device and the Gateway along the
11 lines described herein, or using known technology such as that employed by cellular
12 telephone networks. A location, such as an airport, may have multiple Gateways
13 disposed at locations throughout the airport terminals. As a user moves about the
14 terminals, the display unit is handed off between the Gateways. Also, frequency
15 hopping, spread spectrum, encryption, or other suitable techniques, can be used to
16 transmit secure webpage or other content data. The webpage data can be transmitted as
17 analog information, rather than digital, since there is little opportunity for digital
18 compression in the moving picture sense, and thus digital transmission may be too
19 bandwidth intensive to accommodate numerous simultaneous users. The display device
20 receives and converts the analog signal (for example, a composite video signal)
21 containing a frame of a video signal as a web page. Thus, using the NTSC TV
22 standard as a guide, 6 MHz of analog bandwidth can transmit about 30
23 webpages/second - allowing for the accommodation of many users from a single
24 Gateway - particularly if multiple analog transmission channels are available. HDTV or
25 computer monitor-type resolutions may require additional bandwidth as compared with
26 the conventional television-type resolution. Sensitive data, such as email, may need
27 special processing to keep the email private if it is transmitted as an analog video frame.
28 Or, some data may be transmitted as digital, more bandwidth intensive, signals to
29 enable digital encryption and other privacy techniques to be employed.

30 Figure 71(a) is a flowchart showing the steps of using Internet-based
31 information triggers for controlling events within a networked home or office. The
32 subscriber preferences include the online (Internet, intranet, etc) triggers (stock news,
33 tv programs, weather alerts, video and telephone alert, with advanced caller id, news
34 reports, etc.
35 Also included in the subscriber preferences are the events that are to be occur in the
36 home in response to the detection of the alerts - turn on certain television(s), turn up
37 volume, ring telephone (distinctive ring), compose PIP of television and internet
38 content with computer and turn selected televisions to the local computer channel, etc.
39 The trigger events are stored on the home's central computer, which protects the

1 subscriber from anyone manipulating the home via a hacked Internet connection (events
2 can include encryption and password protection). The online triggers are uploaded to
3 the home or office server and compared with a constantly updated information data base
4 to determine the occurrence of a subscriber's trigger. When a trigger occurs, the home
5 or office server notifies the subscribers computer (either through Instant Message-type
6 communication (constant connections or when the subscriber is logged into the system)
7 or email-type notification (dial-up connections)). The subscriber's computer can be
8 programmed to dial up connection and check for email-type notification at certain times.

9 Figure 71(b) is a table showing examples of subscriber-selected online triggers.

10 Figure 71(c) is a table showing examples of subscriber-selected trigger events.

11 Figure 72(a) illustrates six frames of a video stream containing six pages of a web site.
12 In accordance with the present invention, the six frames of the website are transmittable
13 as video frame data to enable high speed transfer of the entire website via a television
14 signal transferring system such as cable television. Using, for example, a conventional
15 NTSC broadcast television channel carrying one page per video frame, the entire six
16 pages of the website can be transmitted in about .2 seconds. In accordance with the
17 present invention, the web pages are generated as individual frames of a video stream.
18 As an example, an NTSC video transmission has a frame rate of about 30 frames per
19 second. Thus, in accordance with the present invention, the six pages of the website
20 shown in Figure 72(a) can be transmitted in about two tenths of a second. The static
21 display information is contained within the display area of the video frame. The
22 overscan area or the vertical blanking interval (or other displayed and/or non-displayed
23 area) of the video frame or video signal is used to carry hyperlink and other non-display
24 information.

25 Figure 72(b) illustrates a blank browser page which is used to navigate through the
26 downloaded web pages and to make a connection with the Internet to acquire additional
27 information not included in the transmission. For example, the transmitted web site
28 may include hyperlinks to additional web pages and web sites which can be accessed
29 through a modem connection with the Internet. The blank browser page includes a
30 display area in which is inserted the display information retrieved from the received
31 video transmission.

32 Figure 72(c) shows the display information contained in Frame1 of Figure1 displayed
33 within the browser frame window. In accordance with the present invention, the
34 displayed webpage looks the same as a webpage retrieved from the Internet, although is
35 has been transmitted at a substantially higher rate of transmission than is available from
36 a conventional Internet connection.

37 Figure 72(d) illustrates a single frame from the video stream shown in Figure 72(a).
38 The frame includes the display information which is contained within the displayed
39 image area. The frame also includes the hyperlink and other non-display information

1 which is contained within the non-display portion of the video frame or video signal.
2 The non-display information shown in Figure 72(d) is, for illustrative purposes,
3 indicated in English words. However, as is described below, this non-display
4 information is preferably transmitted in digital form via the use of the available states of
5 pixel information contained within the video signal. The display information is a static
6 frame of video data. Thus, in order for the hyperlinks to be activatable, the position
7 and boundaries of the hyperlink must be determined. Do the hyperlink by order and
8 reached by tabbing through the hyperlink order, also in the voice recognition system,
9 the spoken word for the hyperlink and the alternative forms expected to be spoken can
10 be included in the hyperlink information to enable voice recognition. For example, the
11 hyperlink "about the company" would include variations of the phrase "about the
12 company" The non-display information that is contained within the video signal may
13 include hyperlink information including the link title, image location, the target of the
14 link, and what operation(s) is to be performed when the link is clicked. For example,
15 the hyperlink information may include an operation command that changes the color of
16 all the black pixels to blue when clicked. Thus, once the hyperlink is clicked, all the
17 black pixels that make up the text of the hyperlink graphic are changed to blue, giving a
18 visual indication to the user that this hyperlink has been activated. The hyperlink is
19 activated when the cursor enters within the image location boundaries and the mouse is
20 clicked. In other cases, for example in the use of a remote control that includes a means
21 for tabbing through the hyperlinks, the hyperlink is activated when the hyperlink is
22 tabbed to, and the enter button or other such button on the remote control is clicked.
23 The image location is relative to some standard landmark on the page such as the top left
24 corner or other suitable page landmark. The "link to" information for the particular
25 hyperlink indicates what the target of the hyperlink is. In this case, for example, the
26 hyperlink with the link title "about the company" is at a specific image location
27 designated by a rectangle determined by the position of the top left corner and bottom
28 right corner relative to the page landmark. The link "about the company" when
29 activated causes the video frame2 in the example shown in Figure 72(a) to be retrieved
30 from the video memory and its display image is displayed as the next web page. The
31 non-display display information is deciphered as will be described below and loaded,
32 for example, into RAM so that this new page's hyperlinks and other non-display
33 information can be utilized. Other operations can be performed, such as controlling
34 televisions, communication devices, lights, security systems, and the like, and the links
35 can be to other internet content or to controlling appliance like VCRs. The hyperlinks
36 contained in the webpage shown in Figure 72(d) include links to the other webpages
37 that are shown in Figure 72(a). For example, the link title "fact sheet" when activated
38 will bring up video frame3 through the operation "goto linked page". Another link
39 towards the bottom of the page shown in Figure 72(d) is titled "Point Blank Designs".

1 This link when activated performs the operation of opening a new email message with
2 the email address nycs8@aol.com. The hyperlinks can perform various other
3 operations typically done by hyperlinks contained in Internet webpages. Further, the
4 hyperlinks can be used to activate or operate local devices, such as VCRs, telephone
5 systems, computers, televisions and the like.

6 Figure 72(e) illustrates the various links and their operation that results when the
7 hyperlinks shown in Figure 72(d) are activated.

8 Figure 72(f) illustrates another series of webpages that are transmitted as video data. In
9 this case, the web pages consist of a television programming guide. The programming
10 guide includes a program grid that has television shows that are available on, for
11 example, a cable television provider's system. In accordance with this aspect of the
12 invention, the television programming guide can be transmitted to the cable television
13 subscribers complete with webpages that correspond to the various viewing choices that
14 are available. The portion of the video signal that is captured by the subscriber's box
15 can be customized depending on the subscriber's preferences and viewing habits.

16 Thus, for example, a subscriber who is interested in science fiction can have in-depth
17 webpages captured that pertain to television programs that pertain to this genre.

18 Further, by determining the demographics of the particular subscriber, specific
19 commercial messages, news reports, advertising incentives and the like and can
20 captured from the television signal. As shown, the display displayed information for a
21 page can be send as a single video page. One or more video frames can be used to
22 carry the corresponding hyperlink and related information. For example, if the page
23 has a lot of hyperlinks, all the hyperlink data may not fit within the available non-
24 displayed portion of the television signal associated with that frame. Thus, the link data
25 can be included in the adjacent video frame both in the display area and the non-display
26 area.

27 Figure 72(g) shows a web page with the corresponding non-display data included along
28 with the page. In this case, the non-display data includes the page title "entrypage",
29 page location "video A1 frame1", and the page reception information. This page
30 reception information may include the frame number, in this case, 2132507, followed
31 by the reception date, in this case, 01/15/1999. This page reception information can be
32 used as the page link designation or otherwise used to keep track of the various frames
33 of webpage video data that is received. Also included is the element data for the various
34 graphic elements making up the page. The element data includes the page element title,
35 the image location, the element order and the element type. Thus, for example, if the
36 viewer wishes to obtain an editable text clipping from the web page, he can do so by
37 clicking on the desired text and copying the text image to an OCR program which
38 would convert the text image into editable text.

1 The type of data for each page element can be included in the page data. For example,
2 text data can be identified as text, contained within predefined boundaries, so that the
3 text image can be captured and converted into editable text using an OCD-type program.
4 Animation or motion video can be included by linking each frame of the animation to
5 the additional pages containing the other frames. During playing of the animation clip,
6 each page in the animation series is displayed at the appropriate frame rate, the other
7 page elements remain constant. If there are two or more pages with video or animation
8 content, their video content can be combined into a single page. When viewed, the
9 other page content remains fixed and acts as a mask while the moving image content of
10 the page is played behind the mask. That is, the mask has a window that lets the video
11 image content come through. For images that might be "blown up", the image data can
12 be increased so that the pixel resolution of the blown up image is high. Pixel
13 information is used to carry binary data, hyperlinks, data types, etc. Pixel state (on/off,
14 luminosity, color, etc. can be used to convey the information. To decode, the pixel data
15 is retrieved from the video frame. Video content and TML content can be "pushed",
16 that is, loaded onto a recording device such as a hard drive day and night or at
17 appropriate times. This pushed content may be encrypted so that the content provider,
18 such as a cable company, can charge for the encryption key. The hyperlinks can
19 include links to video footage stored on the HD, or to be downloaded and stored (such
20 as television programs that are coming on in the future, PPV or VOD). The hyperlinks
21 can include links to Internet content, with access to the Internet content initiated with the
22 link is clicked. The content can include daily newspapers with video linked news
23 reports, catalogs, etc. with a check to determine the "freshness" of the downloaded
24 content, only new content needs to be sent.

25 Figure 72(h) shows how the binary video data stream can be conveyed using just the
26 on/off states of the pixels of the video image. In this case, the bright pixels represent
27 binary digits 0 and the black pixels represent binary digit 1. Thus, the non-display
28 information can be transmitted as part of the video information and later determined
29 from the video information by detecting the bright and dark states of the pixels in serial
30 order as they are displayed.

31 Figure 72(i) illustrates a video stream containing display page information contained
32 within the displayed area of the individual video frames, and hyperlink page
33 information and other non-display page information contained in the non-display area of
34 the video signal or video page stream. The display information displayed the entire
35 website page, or a portion of it, as a still frame taken from the received video frame
36 signal. If the page is larger than a single frame, two or more video frames can be linked
37 together with the link operation indicating that the browser is to display the pages with
38 scrollability. The non-display information includes the targets of hyperlinks, page title
39 and other information. This data can be transmitted as binary information that can be

1 discerned from the pixel information. To retrieve the binary data stream, the state of
2 each pixel is determined, perhaps in its scan sequence or other predetermined order.
3 This pixel state is converted into a binary data stream from which is determined the
4 contained non-display information.

5 In accordance with the present invention, a browser-type computer program is provided
6 for controlling the display of the html-type documents received as described above.

7 This browser-type application has a number of advantages over conventional Internet
8 web browsers, such as Netscape Navigator, Netscape Communicator and Microsoft's
9 Internet Explorer. The inventive browser-type program requires relatively little
10 computer memory to operate, making it particularly suitable for relatively inexpensive
11 PDAs, set top boxes, and other such devices.

12 The videostreaming HTML document format described above can be obtained by
13 converting other HTML-types of documents, such as those currently found on the
14 Internet, into the videostreaming HTML document format. Thus, for example, Internet
15 content can be collected from the Internet as is done conventionally using a desktop
16 computer, and then this content can be converted into the inventive videostreaming
17 HTML document format. This videostreaming HTML content can be then transferred
18 from the desktop computer to, for example, a PDA thereby allowing low memory
19 capacity devices, such as PDAs to store much larger quantities of Internet content than
20 conventionally possible. The inventive browser-type program can also be used to
21 convert other documents into hyperlinked videostreaming HTML documents for
22 transmission to display devices. In accordance with this aspect of the present
23 invention, a display device only needs to be able to display a frame (web page) of video
24 information received from an "Internet or intranet Gateway" device. The display device
25 does not have to be able to decode html, reconstruct GIF images for display, etc. These
26 actions are done by the Gateway device. The display device receives the web page as
27 frame of video (or as a still image) and it is displayed. If the display device includes
28 buffering means for buffering data, then it can receive "bursts" of content information
29 from the Gateway device, optimizing data transmission to multiple display devices. To
30 activate, for example, a hyperlink a cursor location determining means onboard the
31 display device determine where a superimposed cursor is located relative to the
32 hyperlinks on the page when the user clicks on a hyperlink. This hyperlink location
33 information is transmitted to the Gateway device where it is interpreted to determine
34 which hyperlink the user intends to activate. The activation of the hyperlink by the user
35 can be performed by other mechanisms, such as tabbing through the links on a page, etc.

36 The information regarding where a hyperlink is located, what it is linked to, etc. is
37 maintained by the Gateway thus alleviating the need to have much processing power, if
38 any, onboard the display device for accessing the Internet or intranet content. Further,
39 "public" channels can be provided that can be accessed by multiple displays

1 simultaneously for showing, for example, a movie or news report to users within a
2 network environment such as an airplane, airport or grocery store.
3 Figure 72(j) illustrates a stream of video data provided along with hyperlink, page
4 information and other non-videographic page information, with split static videographic
5 page information provided along with split moving image videographic page
6 information;

7 Figure 72(k) shows a block diagram of an inventive display device for use with the
8 inventive method of transmitting hyperlinked information.

9 Figure 72(l) illustrates a wireless display device receiving a window of moving image
10 videographic page information superimposed on a screen of static videographic page
11 information.

12 Figure 72(m) shows a PDA-type wireless display device displaying static and moving
13 videographic page information.

14 Figure 72(n) shows a blank page of a high speed HTML browser window in
15 accordance with the prototype FaceSpan software program disclosed herein.

16 Figure 72(o) shows an internet page having the grid locations of the page's hyperlinks
17 determined and the page displayed in the browser window shown in Figure 72(n).

18 Figure 73(a) shows an inventive wireless display terminal capable of displaying
19 a screen image composed of video data simultaneously received from two or more
20 wireless sources. The inventive wireless display terminal system includes control
21 signal generating means for generating control signals for controlling at least one
22 remotely located data source. The remotely located data sources may be, for example, a
23 computer, a VCR, DVD, set top box or other multimedia device. As described
24 elsewhere herein, the remotely located data sources include wireless signal transmitting
25 devices that emit a wireless signal containing video, audio, and/or data information. A
26 first wireless data signal receiving means receives a first wireless data signal (for
27 example, a digital data signal containing internet content from a computer)
28 Alternatively, the digital data signal can come from a wireless modem connected directly
29 to wire network, such as a phone line or cable network. In this case, the wireless
30 display terminal includes means for receiving the Internet content in the form of a
31 wireless modem signal and creating a screen image dependent thereon, and means for
32 requesting internet content through the wireless modem.

33 A second wireless signal receiving means receives a second wireless data signal
34 (for example, a television channel from a set top box). A video processing device
35 processes the video information contained in the first and the second wireless data
36 signal. The video processing device is effective for outputting a composed video signal
37 containing a screen image composed of a split screen or picture-in-a-picture display
38 comprised of the video information. Stated otherwise, the video processing device is
39 capable of creating a screen image that includes the digitally transmitted Internet content

1 having a PIP image of an analog transmitted television show. Such a video processing
2 device is available from Oxford Micro Devices or Oxford Connecticut
3 (www.omdi.com). Display driving means receives the composed video signal and
4 outputs a display driving signal. A display, such as an LCD, receives the display
5 driving signal and displays the screen image. Thus, in accordance with the present
6 invention, a wireless display terminal is provided that allows a user to access the
7 Internet while viewing a television program.

8 As the Internet becomes the source of computer applications, such as word
9 processing, appointment books, etc., the inventive wireless display device will provide
10 an inexpensive solution for performing most of the activities that are now done using a
11 conventional desktop computer. In this case, the inventive wireless display device may
12 include a local storage device, such as a hard drive, to keep documents and other files
13 locally available.

14 Figure 73(b) is a block diagram illustrating an antenna node device 200 for
15 conditioning a wireless signal for communication over a pre-existing hard wire network
16 The antenna node device 200 includes an antenna for receiving a
17 wireless signal. First conditioning means conditions the wireless signal
18 into a wired medium transmission signal for effective transmission over
19 a wired network. Connecting means connects the conditioning means to
20 the wired network, whereby the received wireless signal is converted
21 into the wired medium transmission signal and injected onto the wired
22 network. The antenna node device 200 also includes means for
23 receiving a wired medium transmission signal from a wired network,
24 which may be a connection to an in-home cable network, or an inter-
25 office Ethernet network. Second conditioning means conditions the
26 received wired medium transmission signal into a wireless signal
27 effective for wireless transmission. Emitting means, such as a
28 directional antenna, emits the wireless signal, whereby the received
29 wired medium transmission signal is converted into the wireless signal
30 and emitted for reception by a remote wireless device. The first
31 conditioning means includes a down-converter and the second
32 conditioning means comprises an up-converter. The up-converter is
33 effective for converting a received 900 MHz band signal to a 2.4 GHz
34 band signal, and the down-converter is effective for converting a
35 received 2.4 GHz band signal to a 900 MHz band signal. Thus, for
36 example, 2.4 GHz wireless networking devices can use a pre-existing
37 home cable network as a bridge for spanning long distances between
38 wireless devices. The up-converting and down-converting of the signal

1 enables it to be effectively transmitted through existing devices on the
2 wire network, such as splitters and amplifiers.
3
4 Figure 73(c) illustrates the use of the inventive antenna node devices 200 in an office
5 environment. In this case, the antenna node devices 200 provide an effective bridge
6 between segments of a wired Ethernet (or other type) network, allowing for expansion
7 of the in-office Ethernet network without requiring new difficult-to-install wires
8 between the segments. Further, mobile devices, such as the inventive wireless display
9 terminal, can be effectively brought into the office and connected with devices that are
10 both wireless and hard wired connected to the Ethernet network.

1 **Claims:**

2

3 1.) A method for indicating the content recorded on a video tape, characterized by the
4 steps of: determining content-indicating information corresponding to the content
5 recorded on or to be recorded on a video tape; converting the determined content-
6 indicating information into a recordable content signal; generating a recordable
7 information signal for recording on the video tape including the recordable content
8 signal corresponding to the content-indicating information; transferring the recordable
9 information signal to a recording head of a video tape recorder; and controlling the
10 video tape recorder to record the recordable information.

11

12 2.) A method of indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim 1;
13 further comprising determining control cue information for use in automatically
14 controlling a video tape recorder; and wherein the step of generating the recordable
15 information signal includes generating the recordable information signal including a
16 recordable control cue signal corresponding to the control cue information.

17

18 3.) A method of indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim 2;
19 wherein the content-indicating information comprises HTML data.

20

21 4.) A method of indicating the content recorded on a video tape, characterized by the
22 steps of: controlling a video recorder to playback a recordable information signal
23 including a recordable content signal previously recorded on a video tape; transferring
24 the recordable information signal to an information signal detector; and detecting
25 content-indicating information from the recordable content signal so that a
26 representation of the content of television programs recorded on the video tape can be
27 displayed.

28

29 5.) A method of indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim 4;
30 wherein the recordable information signal includes a recordable control cue signal; and
31 further comprising the step of detecting control cue information for controlling the video
32 tape recorder; and automatically controlling the video tape recorder depending on the
33 control cue information.

34

35 6.) A method of indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim 5;
36 wherein the content-indicating information comprises HTML data.

37

38 7.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
39 tape, characterized by: content determining means for determining content-indicating

1 information corresponding to the content recorded on or to be recorded on a video tape;
2 converting means for converting the determined content-indicating information into
3 recordable content data; generating means for generating a recordable information signal
4 for recording on the video tape including content signal generating means for generating
5 a recordable content signal corresponding to the recordable content data; transferring
6 means for transferring the recordable information signal to a video tape recorder; and
7 video device controlling means for controlling the video tape recorder to record the
8 recordable information.

9
10 8.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
11 tape according to claim 7; further comprising cue determining means for determining
12 control cue information for automatically controlling a video tape recorder; wherein the
13 generating means includes means for generating the recordable information signal
14 including cue signal generating means for generating a recordable control cue signal
15 corresponding to the control cue information, and combining means for combining the
16 recordable content signal with the recordable cue signal to generate the recordable
17 information signal.

18
19 9.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
20 tape according to claim 8; where the video device controlling means includes playback
21 controlling means for controlling the video recorder to playback the recordable
22 information signal including the recordable content signal previously recorded on the
23 video tape; detecting means for detecting the content-indicating information from the
24 recordable information signal so that an indication of the recorded content of the video
25 tape can be displayed; and wherein the transferring means includes means for
26 transferring the recordable information signal to an information signal detecting means.

27
28 10.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
29 tape according to claim 9; wherein the detecting means includes means for detecting
30 control cue information from the recordable information signal; and further comprising
31 device control signal emitting means for emitting device control signals for
32 automatically controlling the video tape recorder depending on the control cue
33 information under the control of the computer.

34
35 11.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
36 tape according to claim 10; wherein the content-indicating information comprising
37 HTML data.

38

1 12.) A home multimedia network, characterized by: a computer node including
2 computer display local channel generating means for generating a computer display
3 local television channel containing a video output signal corresponding to a computer
4 display output signal generated by a computer locatable at the computer node, the
5 computer display local television channel being effective for allowing displaying of
6 video data generated by the computer on a television located on the home multimedia
7 network remotely from the computer, the computer node also including device control
8 signal generating means controllable by the computer for generating device control
9 signals transferable over the home multimedia network and effective to selectively
10 control at least one video device located on the home multimedia network remotely from
11 the computer, the computer node further including computer control signal receiving
12 means for receiving computer control signals transferred over the home multimedia
13 network; and a video device node including device control signal emitting means for
14 receiving the device control signals and for emitting video device control signals
15 effective for controlling a video device located on the home multimedia network
16 remotely from the computer so that the video device can be remotely controlled by the
17 computer, the video device node further include computer control signal generating
18 means controllable by a user input device for generating computer control signals
19 transferable over the home multimedia network so that the computer can be remotely
20 controlled in response to a user input.

21
22 13.) A home multimedia network according to claim 12; further comprising video
23 device local channel generating means for generating a video device local television
24 channel containing a video output signal of the at least one video device located at the at
25 least one video device node on the home multimedia network.

26
27 14.) A home multimedia network according to claim 12; further comprising at least one
28 microphone input located at a location on the home multimedia network for receiving
29 microphone signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the microphone signals;
30 and adding means for adding the selected input of the microphone signals to the home
31 multimedia network.

32
33 15.) A home multimedia network according to claim 14; further comprising means for
34 generating audible sound signals corresponding to the selected input of the microphone
35 signals at a location on the home multimedia network remote from the location of the at
36 least one microphone input receiving the selected input of the microphone signals.

37
38 16.) A home multimedia network according to claim 15; further comprising at least one
39 video camera input located at a location on the home multimedia network for receiving

- 1 video camera signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the video camera
2 signals; and wherein at least one of the computer display local television channel
3 generating means and the video device local television channel generating means
4 includes means for including the selected input of the microphone signals and the
5 selected input of the video camera signals in the corresponding computer display local
6 television channel and the video device local television channel.
7
- 8 17.) A home multimedia network according to claim 16; further comprising means for
9 connecting the selected input of the microphone signals to a telephone system.
10
- 11 18.) A home multimedia network according to claim 17; further comprising means for
12 notifying the existence of a received telephone call on at least one display connected to
13 the home multimedia system and means for answering the received telephone call and
14 selecting the input of the microphone signals received by the microphone input.
15
- 16 19.) A home multimedia network according to claim 18; further comprising means for
17 determining a telephone number of a received telephone call; and means for displaying
18 the determined telephone number on said at least one display.
19
- 20 20.) A home multimedia network according to claim 13; further comprising means for
21 connecting to the Internet and downloading Internet data; Internet video output signal
22 generating means for receiving the Internet data and generating an Internet video signal
23 dependent thereon; and wherein the device local channel generating means includes
24 means for generating the video device local television signal containing the Internet
25 video output signal data.
26
- 27 21.) A home multimedia network according to claim 12; further comprising means for
28 connecting the computer to the Internet and downloading Internet data; and wherein the
29 computer display local channel generating means includes means for generating the
30 computer display local television signal containing the Internet video output signal data.
31
- 32 22.) A home multimedia network, characterized by: a first computer node including
33 computer display local channel generating means for generating a computer display
34 local television channel containing a video output signal corresponding to a computer
35 display output signal generated by a computer locatable at the computer node, the
36 computer display local television channel being effective for allowing displaying of
37 video data generated by the computer on an ordinary television located on the home
38 multimedia network remotely from the computer, device control signal generating
39 means controllable by the computer for generating device control signals transferable

1 over the home multimedia network and effective to selectively control at least one video
2 device located on the home multimedia network remotely from the computer, computer
3 control signal receiving means for receiving computer control signals transferred over
4 the home multimedia network, content determining means for determining content-
5 indicating information corresponding to the content recorded on or to be recorded on a
6 video tape, cue determining means for determining control cue information for
7 automatically controlling a video tape recorder, converting means for converting the
8 determined content-indicating information into recordable content data, generating
9 means for generating a recordable information signal for recording on the video tape,
10 the generating means including content signal generating means for generating a
11 recordable content signal corresponding to the recordable content data, cue signal
12 generating means for generating a recordable control cue signal corresponding to the
13 control cue information and combining means for combining the recordable content
14 signal with the recordable cue signal to generate the recordable information signal,
15 transferring means for transferring the recordable information signal to a video tape
16 recorder, and video device controlling means for controlling the video tape recorder to
17 record the recordable information.

18
19 23.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; where the video device
20 controlling means includes playback controlling means for controlling the video
21 recorder to playback a recorded information signal including the recordable content
22 signal previously recorded on the video tape; detecting means for detecting the content-
23 indicating information from the recordable information signal so that an indication of the
24 recorded content of the video tape can be displayed; and wherein the transferring means
25 includes means for transferring the recordable information signal to an information
26 signal detecting means.

27
28 24.) A home multimedia network according to claim 23; comprising a video device
29 node including video device local channel generating means for generating a video
30 device local television channel containing a video and audio output of the video recorder
31 located at the at least one video device node on the home multimedia network, wherein
32 the recorded information signal played back from the video tape is included in the video
33 and audio output of the video recorder; device control signal emitting means for
34 receiving the device control signals and for emitting video device control signals
35 effective for controlling the video recorder located on the home multimedia network
36 remotely from the computer so that the video device can be remotely controlled by the
37 computer, the video device node further including computer control signal generating
38 means controllable by a user input device for generating computer control signals

- 1 transferable over the home multimedia network so that the computer can be remotely
2 controlled in response to a user input.
3
- 4 25.) A home multimedia network according to claim 24; wherein the detecting means
5 includes means for detecting control cue information from the recordable information
6 signal; and further comprising device control signal emitting means for emitting device
7 control signals for automatically controlling the video tape recorder depending on the
8 control cue information.
9
- 10 26.) A home multimedia network according to claim 24; wherein the video device local
11 channel generating means includes means for generating the video device local
12 television channel as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a conductive
13 wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals and wireless
14 ir signals; and the computer control signal generating means includes means for
15 generating the computer control signals as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable
16 over a conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf
17 signals and wireless ir signals.
18
- 19 27.) A home multimedia network according to claim 24; wherein the video device local
20 channel generating means includes means for generating the video device local
21 television channel as rf signals carryable over a pre-existing home coaxial cable
22 television network; and the computer control signal generating means includes means
23 for generating the computer control signals as dc signals carryable over the pre-existing
24 home coaxial cable television network.
25
- 26 28.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; wherein the computer display
27 local channel generating means includes high-definition signal generating means for
28 generating the local television channel as containing the video output signal as high-
29 definition-display-device-driving information for driving a high definition display such
30 as a computer monitor or high definition television; and further comprising a high-
31 definition node having display-driving means for receiving the local television channel
32 containing the high-definition-display-device-driving information and for driving a high
33 definition display device.
34
- 35 29.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; wherein the first computer
36 node includes computer data signal generating means for generating a computer data
37 signal in accordance with computer data received from the computer for transfer of the
38 computer data signal over the home multimedia network; and further comprising a
39 computer device node having computer data signal receiving means for receiving the

- 1 computer data signal from the home multimedia network for transfer to a second
2 computer or computer data using device such as a printer or data storage device
3 locatable at the second computer node.
4
- 5 30.) A home multimedia network according to claim 28; wherein the computer data
6 signal generating means includes means for generating the computer data signal as at
7 least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a conductive wire, light spectrum
8 signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals and wireless ir signals.
9
- 10 31.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; further comprising a second
11 computer node having another computer display local channel generating means for
12 generating another computer display local television channel containing a video output
13 signal corresponding to a computer display output signal generated by a second
14 computer, and another computer control signal receiving means for receiving the
15 computer control signals transferred over the home multimedia network.
16
- 17 32.) A home multimedia network according to claim 31; wherein the other computer
18 display local channel generating means includes means for generating the other local
19 computer display local television channel as at least one of dc signals, rf signals
20 carryable over a conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic,
21 wireless rf signals and wireless ir signals.
22
- 23 33.) A home multimedia network according to claim 31; wherein the other computer
24 display local channel generating means includes means for generating the other local
25 computer display local television channel as rf signals carryable over a pre-existing
26 home coaxial cable television network; and the other computer control signal receiving
27 means includes means for receiving the computer control signals as dc signals carryable
28 over the pre-existing home coaxial cable television network.
29
- 30 34.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; further comprising
31 addressable controlling means including an address signal generator for generating an
32 address signal and address signal receiver for receiving the address signal, the address
33 signal generator being controllable by the computer and the address signal receiver
34 being effective for controlling the device control signal emitting means to emit the
35 device control signal depending on the received address signal.
36
- 37 35.) A home multimedia network according to claim 34; wherein the address signal
38 generating includes means for generating the address signal as a signal carryable over a
39 pre-existing home coaxial cable television network and connecting means for

1 connecting the address signal generator to the pre-existing home coaxial cable television
2 network.

3
4 36.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; further comprising a selectable
5 channel filtering means for selectably filtering channel frequencies carried on a
6 television signal source in communication with the home multimedia network, the
7 selectably filtered channel frequencies being available for use as local television
8 channels.

9
10 37.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; wherein the computer display
11 local channel generating means includes means for generating the computer display
12 local television channel as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a
13 conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals
14 and wireless ir signals; the transferring means includes means for transferring the
15 information signal as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a conductive
16 wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals and wireless
17 ir signals; and the device control signal generating means includes means for generating
18 the device control signals as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a
19 conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals
20 and wireless ir signals.

21
22 38.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; wherein the computer display
23 local channel generating means includes means for generating the computer display
24 local television channel as rf signals carryable over a pre-existing home coaxial cable
25 television network; the transferring means includes means for transferring the
26 information signal as rf signals over the pre-existing home coaxial cable television
27 network; and the device control signal generating means includes means for generating
28 the device control signals as rf signals carryable over the pre-existing home coaxial
29 cable television network.

30
31 39.) A home multimedia network according to claim 22; further comprising at least one
32 microphone input located at a location on the home multimedia network for receiving
33 microphone signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the microphone signals;
34 and adding means for adding the selected input of the microphone signals to the home
35 multimedia network.

36
37 40.) A home multimedia network according to claim 39; further comprising means for
38 generating audible sound signals corresponding to the selected input of the microphone

- 1 signals at a location on the home multimedia network remote from the location of the at
2 least one microphone input receiving the selected input of the microphone signals.
3
- 4 41.) A home multimedia network according to claim 40; further comprising at least one
5 video camera input located at a location on the home multimedia network for receiving
6 video camera signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the video camera
7 signals; and wherein at least one of the computer display local television channel
8 generating means and the video device local television channel generating means
9 includes means for including the selected input of the microphone signals and the
10 selected input of the video camera signals in the corresponding computer display local
11 television channel and the video device local television channel.
12
- 13 42.) A home multimedia network according to claim 41; further comprising means for
14 connecting the selected input of the microphone signals to a telephone system.
15
- 16 43.) A home multimedia network according to claim 42; further comprising means for
17 notifying the existence of a received telephone call on at least one display connected to
18 the home multimedia system and means for answering the received telephone call and
19 selecting the input of the microphone signals received by the microphone input.
20
- 21 44.) A home multimedia network according to claim 43; further comprising means for
22 determining a telephone number of a received telephone call; and means for displaying
23 the determined telephone number on said at least one display.
24
- 25 45.) A home multimedia network according to claim 23; further comprising means for
26 connecting to the Internet and downloading Internet data; Internet video output signal
27 generating means for receiving the Internet data and generating an Internet video signal
28 dependent thereon; and wherein the device local channel generating means includes
29 means for generating the video device local television signal containing the Internet
30 video output signal data.
31
- 32 46.) A home multimedia network according to claim 24; further comprising means for
33 connecting the computer to the Internet and downloading Internet data; and wherein the
34 computer display local channel generating means includes means for generating the
35 computer display local television signal containing the Internet video output signal data.
36
- 37 47.) An analog scrambler, characterized by: handshake transmitting means for
38 transmitting a handshake signal from a mobile terminal to a central computer; receiving
39 means for receiving the handshake signal; handshake value and frequency adjustment

- 1 function transmitting means for transmitting a handshake value and frequency
2 adjustment function to the mobile terminal from the central computer; determining
3 means for determining if a received handshake value is correct; transmitting frequency
4 adjusting means for adjusting the transmitting frequency of a wireless signal according
5 to the frequency adjustment function; and receiving frequency adjusting means for
6 adjusting the receiving frequency of a wireless signal according to the frequency
7 adjustment function.
- 8 48.) An analog scrambler according to claim 47; further comprising password
9 protection means for receiving a predetermined password for determining at least one of
10 user preferences and network access.
- 11 49.) An antenna system for use in wireless network, characterized by: signal
12 transducing means including an antenna member for transducing a signal carried over a
13 wired network to a signal transmitted wirelessly; connecting means for connecting the
14 signal transducing means to the wired network.
- 15 50.) An antenna system according to claim 49; wherein the antenna member comprising
16 a directional antenna.
- 17 51.) An antenna system according to claim 50; wherein the wired network comprises a
18 coax cable network.
- 19 52.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
20 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape, characterized by
21 the steps of: determining content-indicating information corresponding to content to be
22 recorded on a video tape; storing the determined content-indicating information in a tape
23 database; determining a tape identification value for the video tape; storing the tape
24 identification value in the tape database; generating a recordable identification signal for
25 recording on the video tape corresponding to the tape identification value; transferring
26 the tape identification signal to a recording head of a video tape recorder; and controlling
27 the video tape recorder to record the tape identification signal.
- 28
- 29 53.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
30 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
31 52; wherein the tape identification signal is recorded substantially continuously during
32 the recording of the content signal on the video tape.
- 33
- 34 54.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
35 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
36 53; wherein the tape identification signal is recorded non-continuously during the
37 recording of the content signal on the video tape.
- 38

- 1 55.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
2 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
3 52; further comprising the steps of receiving a content signal containing content to be
4 recorded on the video tape; mixing the content signal with the tape content and tape
5 identification; transferring the tape content and tape identification mixed signal to the
6 recording head of the video tape recorder; and controlling the video tape recorder to
7 record the content and tape identification mixed signal.
8
- 9 56.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
10 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
11 55; wherein the content signal comprising a television signal containing a television
12 program.
13
- 14 57.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
15 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
16 52; further comprising determining control cue information for use in automatically
17 controlling the video tape recorder; a recordable control cue signal corresponding to the
18 control cue information; and mixing the control cue signal with the content and tape
19 identification mixed signal; transferring the mixed control cue, content and tape
20 identification mixed signal to the recording head of the video tape recorder; and
21 controlling the video tape recorder to record the control cue, content and tape
22 identification mixed signal.
23
- 24 58.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
25 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
26 57; wherein at least one of the recordable control cue signal and the tape identification
27 signal comprises a signal recordable on the video tape that is not displayed during the
28 normal playback of the tape.
29
- 30 59.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
31 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
32 57; wherein at least one of the recordable control cue signal and the tape identification
33 signal comprises an inaudible tone signal.
34
- 35 60.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
36 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
37 52; wherein the content-indicating information comprises HTML data.
38

- 1 61.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
2 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database, characterized
3 by the steps of: determining control cues corresponding to the generation of control
4 signals under the control of a computer for control a remotely located video recorder;
5 storing the determined control cues in a tape database; determining a tape identification
6 value for the video tape; storing the tape identification value in the tape database;
7 generating a recordable identification signal for recording on the video tape
8 corresponding to the tape identification value; transferring the tape identification signal
9 to a recording head of a video tape recorder; and controlling the video tape recorder to
10 record the tape identification signal.
- 11
- 12 62.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
13 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
14 claim 61; wherein the tape identification signal is recorded substantially continuously
15 during the recording of the content signal on the video tape.
- 16
- 17 63.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
18 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
19 claim 61; wherein the tape identification signal is recorded non-continuously during the
20 recording of the content signal on the video tape.
- 21
- 22 64.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
23 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
24 claim 61; further comprising the steps of receiving a content signal containing content to
25 be recorded on the video tape; mixing the content signal with the tape content and tape
26 identification; transferring the tape content and tape identification mixed signal to the
27 recording head of the video tape recorder; and controlling the video tape recorder to
28 record the content and tape identification mixed signal.
- 29
- 30 65.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
31 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
32 claim 64; wherein the content signal comprising a television signal containing a
33 television program.
- 34
- 35 66.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
36 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
37 claim 61; further comprising the step of determining a generation time for generating a
38 control signal corresponding with the control cue information for use in automatically
39 controlling the video tape recorder.

- 1
2 67.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
3 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
4 claim 66; wherein the generation time is determined by generating a tone signal during
5 the recording of the video tape, the tone signal being an indication of the generation time
6 for generating the control signal corresponding with the control cue information.
7
- 8 68.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
9 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
10 claim 67; wherein the generation time is determined as a time value occurring after a
11 detection of the tone signal during the playback of the video tape.
12
- 13 69.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
14 remote computer in accordance with control cues stored in a tape database according to
15 claim 68; wherein the time value corresponding to the generation time is stored in the
16 tape database.
17
- 18 70.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
19 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape, characterized by
20 the steps of: generating control signals using a computer for controlling a video recorder
21 to playback a recordable identification signal previously recorded on a video tape;
22 transferring the recordable identification signal to the computer; and determining a tape
23 identification value for the video tape; comparing the tape identification value with data
24 stored in a tape database; and determining content-indicating information stored in the
25 tape data base corresponding to the tape identification value so that a representation of
26 the content of television programs recorded on the video tape can be displayed.
27
- 28 71.) A method of controlling a video recorder through control signals generated by a
29 remote computer for indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim
30 70; wherein the recordable information signal includes a recordable control cue signal;
31 and further comprising the step of detecting control cue information for controlling the
32 video tape recorder; and automatically controlling the video tape recorder depending on
33 the control cue information.
34
- 35 72.) A method of indicating the content recorded on a video tape according to claim 71;
36 wherein the content-indicating information comprises HTML data.
37
- 38 73.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
39 tape, comprising: content determining means for determining content-indicating

1 information corresponding to the content recorded on or to be recorded on a video tape;
2 converting means for converting the determined content-indicating information into
3 recordable content data; generating means for generating a recordable information signal
4 for recording on the video tape including content signal generating means for generating
5 a recordable content signal corresponding to the recordable content data; transferring
6 means for transferring the recordable information signal to a video tape recorder; and
7 video device controlling means for controlling the video tape recorder to record the
8 recordable information.

9
10 74.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
11 tape according to claim 73; further comprising cue determining means for determining
12 control cue information for automatically controlling a video tape recorder; wherein the
13 generating means includes means for generating the recordable information signal
14 including cue signal generating means for generating a recordable control cue signal
15 corresponding to the control cue information, and combining means for combining the
16 recordable content signal with the recordable cue signal to generate the recordable
17 information signal.

18
19 75.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
20 tape according to claim 74; where the video device controlling means includes playback
21 controlling means for controlling the video recorder to playback the recordable
22 information signal including the recordable content signal previously recorded on the
23 video tape; detecting means for detecting the content-indicating information from the
24 recordable information signal so that an indication of the recorded content of the video
25 tape can be displayed; and wherein the transferring means includes means for
26 transferring the recordable information signal to an information signal detecting means.

27
28 76.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
29 tape according to claim 75; wherein the detecting means includes means for detecting
30 control cue information from the recordable information signal; and further comprising
31 device control signal emitting means for emitting device control signals for
32 automatically controlling the video tape recorder depending on the control cue
33 information under the control of the computer.

34
35 77.) A video recording system for recording content-indicating information on a video
36 tape according to claim 76; wherein the content-indicating information comprising
37 HTML data.

38

1 78.) A method of recording a television program with commercial break information
2 using a video recorder characterized by the steps of; determining a television channel,
3 date, time and duration for a selected television program; tuning in the determined
4 television channel at the determined date and time to receive the selected television
5 program by a computer controlled TV tuner; generating a local television channel
6 characterized by computer generated video and audio output containing the selected
7 television program; generating a control signal to tune a remotely located video recorder
8 to the local television channel; computer monitoring the selected television program for
9 the occurrence of a commercial break; detecting the start of a commercial break;
10 generating a start-break signal indicating the start of the commercial break; mixing the
11 start-break signal with the video and audio output containing the selected television
12 program; and generating a control signal to control the video recorder to record local
13 television channel containing the selected television program and the start-break signal.
14

15 79.) A method of using a computer to control a video recorder for recording a
16 television program with commercial break information characterized by the steps of:
17 receiving at least the audio portion of a selected television program by a computer;
18 monitoring the received portion of the selected television program to determine the start
19 of a commercial break; recording the selected television program on a video tape;
20 memorializing the location on the video tape of the start of the commercial break;
21 monitoring the selected television program to determine the end of a commercial break;
22 and memorializing the location of the end of the commercial break.
23

24 80.) A method of using a computer to control a video recorder according to claim 79;
25 further comprising using the computer to generate control signals to control the video
26 recorder to record the selected television program.
27

28 81.) A method of using a computer to control a video recorder according to claim 79;
29 wherein the step of memorializing the locations on the video tape of the start and end of
30 the commercial break comprises the steps of determining an elapsed time from the start
31 of the selected television program to the start of the commercial break; and storing the
32 elapsed time in a tape database stored in a storage device controlled by the computer.
33

34 82.) A method of using a computer to control a video recorder according to claim 81;
35 further comprising the steps of determining a tape identification value for the video tape;
36 storing the tape identification value in the tape database; generating a recordable
37 identification signal for recording on the video tape corresponding to the tape
38 identification value; transferring the tape identification signal to a recording head of a

1 video tape recorder; and controlling the video tape recorder to record the tape
2 identification signal.

3

4 83.) A method of using a computer to control a video recorder according to claim 81;
5 wherein the step of memorializing the locations on the video tape of the start and end of
6 the commercial break comprises the steps of determining an elapsed time from the start
7 of the selected television program to the start of the commercial break; generating a data
8 signal containing data indicating the determined elapsed time; and generating control
9 signal to control the video recorder to record the data signal on the video tape.

10

11 84.) A method of using a computer to control a video recorder according to claim 81;
12 further comprising the steps of determining a tape identification value for the video tape;
13 storing the tape identification value in the tape database; generating a recordable
14 identification signal for recording on the video tape corresponding to the tape
15 identification value; transferring the tape identification signal to a recording head of a
16 video tape recorder; and controlling the video tape recorder to record the tape
17 identification signal.

18

19 85.) A home multimedia network, characterized by: a computer node including
20 computer display local channel generating means for generating a computer display
21 local television channel containing a video output signal corresponding to a computer
22 display output signal generated by a computer locatable at the computer node, the
23 computer display local television channel being comprised of a local carrier frequency
24 that is outside the frequency range allotted to cable television channels, the computer
25 display local channel being effective for allowing displaying of video data generated by
26 the computer on a television located on the home multimedia network remotely from the
27 computer after the video output signal is demodulated from the local carrier frequency,
28 the computer node also including device control signal generating means controllable by
29 the computer for generating device control signals transferable over the home
30 multimedia network and effective to selectively control at least one video device located
31 on the home multimedia network remotely from the computer, the computer node
32 further including computer control signal receiving means for receiving computer
33 control signals transferred over the home multimedia network; and a video device node
34 including device control signal emitting means for receiving the device control signals
35 and for emitting video device control signals effective for controlling a video device
36 located on the home multimedia network remotely from the computer so that the video
37 device can be remotely controlled by the computer, the video device node further
38 include computer control signal generating means controllable by a user input device for

- 1 generating computer control signals transferable over the home multimedia network so
2 that the computer can be remotely controlled in response to a user input.
3
- 4 86.) A home multimedia network according to claim 85; wherein the video device node
5 further comprises node modulation means for converting the computer display local
6 channel to a television frequency of channel 3 or channel 4.
7
- 8 87.) A home multimedia network according to claim 85; further comprising video
9 device local channel generating means for generating a video device local television
10 channel containing a video output signal of the at least one video device located at the at
11 least one video device node on the home multimedia network, the video device local
12 television channel being comprised of a local carrier frequency that is outside the
13 frequency range allotted to cable television channels.
14
- 15 88.) A home multimedia network according to claim 85; wherein the computer node
16 further comprises node modulation means for converting the video device local channel
17 to a television frequency of channel 3 or channel 4.
18
- 19 89.) A home multimedia network according to claim 85; further comprising at least one
20 microphone input located at a location on the home multimedia network for receiving
21 microphone signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the microphone signals;
22 and adding means for adding the selected input of the microphone signals to the home
23 multimedia network.
24
- 25 90.) A home multimedia network according to claim 89; further comprising means for
26 generating audible sound signals corresponding to the selected input of the microphone
27 signals at a location on the home multimedia network remote from the location of the at
28 least one microphone input receiving the selected input of the microphone signals.
29
- 30 91.) A home multimedia network according to claim 90; further comprising at least one
31 video camera input located at a location on the home multimedia network for receiving
32 video camera signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the video camera
33 signals; and wherein at least one of the computer display local television channel
34 generating means and the video device local television channel generating means
35 includes means for including the selected input of the microphone signals and the
36 selected input of the video camera signals in the corresponding computer display local
37 television channel and the video device local television channel.
38

- 1 92.) A home multimedia network according to claim 91; further comprising means for
2 connecting the selected input of the microphone signals to a telephone system.
3
- 4 93.) A home multimedia network according to claim 92; further comprising means for
5 notifying the existence of a received telephone call on at least one display connected to
6 the home multimedia system and means for answering the received telephone call and
7 selecting the input of the microphone signals received by the microphone input.
8
- 9 94.) A home multimedia network according to claim 93; further comprising means for
10 determining a telephone number of a received telephone call; and means for displaying
11 the determined telephone number on said at least one display.
12
- 13 95.) A home multimedia network according to claim 89; further comprising means for
14 connecting to the Internet and downloading Internet data; Internet video output signal
15 generating means for receiving the Internet data and generating an Internet video signal
16 dependent thereon; and wherein the device local channel generating means includes
17 means for generating the video device local television signal containing the Internet
18 video output signal data.
19
- 20 96.) A home multimedia network according to claim 85; further comprising means for
21 connecting the computer to the Internet and downloading Internet data; and wherein the
22 computer display local channel generating means includes means for generating the
23 computer display local television signal containing the Internet video output signal data.
24
- 25 97.) A home multimedia network, characterized by: a first computer node including
26 computer display local channel generating means for generating a computer display
27 local television channel containing a video output signal corresponding to a computer
28 display output signal generated by a computer locatable at the computer node, the
29 computer display local television channel being effective for allowing displaying of
30 video data generated by the computer on an ordinary television located on the home
31 multimedia network remotely from the computer, device control signal generating
32 means controllable by the computer for generating device control signals transferable
33 over the home multimedia network and effective to selectively control at least one video
34 device located on the home multimedia network remotely from the computer, computer
35 control signal receiving means for receiving computer control signals transferred over
36 the home multimedia network, at least one of content determining means for
37 determining content-indicating information corresponding to the content recorded on or
38 to be recorded on a video tape and cue determining means for determining control cue
39 information for automatically controlling a video tape recorder, tape identification

1 determining means for determining a tape identification value for a video tape; storing
2 means for storing the tape identification value in a tape database; generating means for
3 generating a recordable tape identification signal for recording on the video tape,
4 transferring means for transferring the recordable tape identification signal to a video
5 tape recorder, and video device controlling means for generating a computer-controlled
6 control signal for controlling the video tape recorder to record the recordable
7 identification signal.

8
9 98.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; where the video device
10 controlling means includes playback controlling means for controlling the video
11 recorder to playback a recorded tape identification signal previously recorded on the
12 video tape; detecting means for detecting the tape identification signal so that
13 identification of the video tape can be determined and matched with control cue and/or
14 content-indicating data stored in the tape database.

15
16 99.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; further comprising manually
17 switchable local channel generating means for manually selecting a carrier frequency for
18 computer display local television channel.

19
20 100.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; further comprising a
21 selectable channel filtering means for selectably filtering channel frequencies carried on
22 a television signal source in communication with the home multimedia network, the
23 selectably filtered channel frequencies being available for use as local television
24 channels.

25
26 101.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; wherein the computer display
27 local channel generating means includes means for generating the computer display
28 local television channel as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a
29 conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals
30 and wireless IR signals; the transferring means includes means for transferring the
31 information signal as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable over a conductive
32 wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf signals and wireless
33 IR signals; and the device control signal generating means includes means for
34 generating the device control signals as at least one of dc signals, rf signals carryable
35 over a conductive wire, light spectrum signals carryable over a fiber optic, wireless rf
36 signals and wireless IR signals.

37
38 102.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; wherein the computer display
39 local channel generating means includes means for generating the computer display

1 local television channel as rf signals carryable over a pre-existing home electrical wiring
2 network; the transferring means includes means for transferring the tape identification
3 signal as rf signals over the pre-existing home electrical wiring network; and the device
4 control signal generating means includes means for generating the device control signals
5 as rf signals carryable over the pre-existing home electrical wiring network.
6

7 103.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; further comprising at least
8 one microphone input located at a location on the home multimedia network for
9 receiving microphone signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the microphone
10 signals; and adding means for adding the selected input of the microphone signals to the
11 home multimedia network.
12

13 104.) A home multimedia network according to claim 103; further comprising means
14 for generating audible sound signals corresponding to the selected input of the
15 microphone signals at a location on the home multimedia network remote from the
16 location of the at least one microphone input receiving the selected input of the
17 microphone signals.
18

19 105.) A home multimedia network according to claim 104; further comprising at least
20 one video camera input located at a location on the home multimedia network for
21 receiving video camera signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the video
22 camera signals; and wherein at least one of the computer display local television channel
23 generating means and the video device local television channel generating means
24 includes means for including the selected input of the microphone signals and the
25 selected input of the video camera signals in the corresponding computer display local
26 television channel and the video device local television channel.
27

28 106.) A home multimedia network according to claim 105; further comprising means
29 for connecting the selected input of the microphone signals to a telephone system.
30

31 107.) A home multimedia network according to claim 105; further comprising means
32 for notifying the existence of a received telephone call on at least one display connected
33 to the home multimedia system and means for answering the received telephone call and
34 selecting the input of the microphone signals received by the microphone input.
35

36 108.) A home multimedia network according to claim 107; further comprising means
37 for determining a telephone number of a received telephone call; and means for
38 displaying the determined telephone number on said at least one display.
39

- 1 109.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; further comprising a video
2 device local channel generating means for generating a local channel containing the
3 output of a video device connected on the network.
4
- 5 110.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; further comprising means for
6 connecting to the Internet and downloading Internet data; Internet video output signal
7 generating means for receiving the Internet data and generating an Internet video signal
8 dependent thereon; and wherein the device local channel generating means includes
9 means for generating the video device local television signal containing the Internet
10 video output signal data.
11
- 12 111.) A home multimedia network according to claim 97; further comprising means for
13 connecting the computer to the Internet and downloading Internet data; and wherein the
14 computer display local channel generating means includes means for generating the
15 computer display local television signal containing the Internet video output signal data.
16
- 17 112.) A home multimedia network, characterized by: a computer node including
18 computer display local channel generating means for generating a computer display
19 local television channel containing a video output signal corresponding to a computer
20 display output signal generated by a computer locatable at the computer node, the
21 computer display local television channel being comprised of a local carrier frequency
22 that is outside the frequency range allotted to cable television channels, the computer
23 display local channel being effective for allowing displaying of video data generated by
24 the computer on a television located on the home multimedia network remotely from the
25 computer after the video output signal is demodulated from the local carrier frequency,
26 the computer node also including manual channel selecting means for manually
27 selecting the local carrier frequency for the computer display local television channel
28 from a predetermined set of local carrier frequencies; the computer node also including
29 device control signal generating means controllable by the computer for generating
30 device control signals transferable over the home multimedia network and effective to
31 selectively control at least one video device located on the home multimedia network
32 remotely from the computer, the computer node further including computer control
33 signal receiving means for receiving computer control signals transferred over the home
34 multimedia network; and a video device node including device control signal emitting
35 means for receiving the device control signals and for emitting video device control
36 signals effective for controlling a video device located on the home multimedia network
37 remotely from the computer so that the video device can be remotely controlled by the
38 computer, the video device node further include computer control signal generating
39 means controllable by a user input device for generating computer control signals

1 transferable over the home multimedia network so that the computer can be remotely
2 controlled in response to a user input.

3

4 113.) A home multimedia network according to claim 112; wherein the video device
5 node further comprises node modulation means for converting the computer display
6 local channel to a television frequency of channel 3 or channel 4.

7

8 114.) A home multimedia network according to claim 112; wherein the video device
9 node further comprises video device local channel generating means for generating a
10 video device local television channel containing a video output signal of the at least one
11 video device located at the at least one video device node on the home multimedia
12 network, the video device local television channel being comprised of a local carrier
13 frequency that is outside the frequency range allotted to cable television channels, the
14 video device node also including manual channel selecting means for manually selecting
15 the local carrier frequency for the video device local television channel from a
16 predetermined set of local carrier frequencies.

17

18 115.) A home multimedia network according to claim 112; further comprising an audio
19 device local channel generating means for generating an audio device local audio
20 channel containing an audio output signal of the at least one audio device located at the
21 at least one video device node, the computer node or at an audio device node on the
22 home multimedia network, the audio device local channel being comprised of either a
23 local carrier frequency that is outside the frequency range allotted to cable television
24 channels or a local carrier frequency that is tunable by a conventional radio device.

25

26 116.) A home multimedia network according to claim 114; wherein the computer node
27 further comprises node modulation means for converting the video device local channel
28 to a television frequency of channel 3 or channel 4.

29

30 117.) A home multimedia network according to claim 112; further comprising at least
31 one microphone input located at a location on the home multimedia network for
32 receiving microphone signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the microphone
33 signals; and adding means for adding the selected input of the microphone signals to the
34 home multimedia network.

35

36 118.) A home multimedia network according to claim 117; further comprising means
37 for generating audible sound signals corresponding to the selected input of the
38 microphone signals at a location on the home multimedia network remote from the

- 1 location of the at least one microphone input receiving the selected input of the
2 microphone signals.
3
- 4 119.) A home multimedia network according to claim 118; further comprising at least
5 one video camera input located at a location on the home multimedia network for
6 receiving video camera signals; selecting means for selecting the input of the video
7 camera signals; and wherein at least one of the computer display local television channel
8 generating means and the video device local television channel generating means
9 includes means for including the selected input of the microphone signals and the
10 selected input of the video camera signals in the corresponding computer display local
11 television channel and the video device local television channel.
12
- 13 120.) A home multimedia network according to claim 119; further comprising means
14 for connecting the selected input of the microphone signals to a telephone system.
15
- 16 121.) A home multimedia network according to claim 120; further comprising means
17 for notifying the existence of a received telephone call on at least one display connected
18 to the home multimedia system and means for answering the received telephone call and
19 selecting the input of the microphone signals received by the microphone input.
20
- 21 122.) A home multimedia network according to claim 121; further comprising means
22 for determining a telephone number of a received telephone call; and means for
23 displaying the determined telephone number on said at least one display.
24
- 25 123.) A home multimedia network according to claim 119; further comprising means
26 for connecting to the Internet and downloading Internet data; Internet video output
27 signal generating means for receiving the Internet data and generating an Internet video
28 signal dependent thereon; and wherein the device local channel generating means
29 includes means for generating the video device local television signal containing the
30 Internet video output signal data.
31
- 32 124.) A home multimedia network according to claim 117; further comprising means
33 for connecting the computer to the Internet and downloading Internet data; and wherein
34 the computer display local channel generating means includes means for generating the
35 computer display local television signal containing the Internet video output signal data.
36
- 37 125.) A wireless display terminal system for use with a multimedia network having a
38 wireless transceiver node for receiving and transmitting control signals and video data to
39 wireless devices; the display terminal device characterized by: a housing member; a

1 display screen held by the housing; computer control signal generating means for
2 generating computer control signals for controlling a remotely located computer; a
3 display driver for driving the display screen in response to a display signal generated by
4 the remotely located computer; and a terminal side wireless transceiver disposed within
5 the housing member for transmitting the computer control signals to the remotely
6 located computer as a wireless signal and for receiving the display signal generated by
7 the remotely located computer as a wireless signal.

8
9 126.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125; wherein the signal
10 generated by the remotely located computer comprises computer display video data; and
11 further including graphic generating means for generating a graphical display receptive
12 by the display driver for displaying graphical information in accordance with simple
13 control signals transmitted by the computer.

14
15 127.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125; further comprising a
16 touch sensitive input device for receiving user input for controlling the generating of the
17 computer control signals.

18
19 128.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 127; wherein the touch
20 sensitive input device comprises at least one of a touch screen disposed adjacent to the
21 display screen, a pressure sensitive keyboard, a track pad and a track ball.

22
23 129.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125; wherein the terminal
24 side wireless transceiver comprises at least one transmitter and one receiver selected
25 comprised of an infrared transmitter, an infrared receiver, an ultrasonic transmitter,
26 and ultrasonic receiver, a rf transmitter and an rf receiver.

27
28 130.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125; further comprising a
29 wireless transceiver node connected to a hard wired network having a connection to the
30 remotely located computer, the wireless transceiver node including a computer control
31 signal receiver for receiving the wireless signal including the computer control signals
32 from the terminal side wireless transceiver and a display signal transmitter for
33 transmitting the display signal generated by the remotely located computer to the
34 terminal side wireless transceiver.

35
36 131.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125; further comprising a
37 video input device for generating at least one of a video signal and an audio signal; and
38 wherein the terminal display side wireless transceiver includes means for transmitting

1 the at least one video signal and audio signal to the wireless transceiver node as a
2 wireless signal .
3

4 132.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125; further comprising a
5 wireless transceiver node connected to the computer, the wireless transceiver node
6 including a computer control signal receiver for receiving the wireless signal including
7 the computer control signals from the terminal side wireless transceiver and a display
8 signal transmitter for transmitting the display signal generated by the remotely located
9 computer to the terminal side wireless transceiver.
10

11 133.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125; further comprising a
12 video input device for generating at least one of a video signal and an audio signal; and
13 wherein the terminal display side wireless transceiver includes means for transmitting
14 the at least one video signal and audio signal to the wireless transceiver node as a
15 wireless signal .
16

17 134.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 125;
18 further comprising device remote control signal generating means
19 for generating remote control signals effective for controlling
20 appliances receptive of such control signals.
21

22 135.) A wireless display terminal system comprising: a housing
23 member; a display screen held by the housing; control signal
24 generating means for generating control signals for controlling at
25 least one remotely located data source; a first wireless data signal
26 receiving means for receiving a first wireless data signal; a second
27 wireless signal receiving means for receiving a second wireless
28 data signal; video processing means for processing video
29 information contained in the first and the second wireless data
30 signal, the video processing means being effective for outputting a
31 composed video signal containing a screen image composed of a
32 split screen or picture-in-a-picture display comprised of the video
33 information; display driving means for receiving the composed

1 video signal and outputting a display driving signal; and a display
2 for receiving the display driving signal and displaying the screen
3 image.

4
5 136.) A wireless display terminal according to claim 135; further comprising a touch
6 sensitive input device for receiving user input for controlling the generating of the
7 computer control signals.

8
9 137.) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 135; further comprising a
10 wireless transceiver node connected to a hard wired network in communication with a
11 remotely located computer.

12
13 138.) A wireless display terminal according to claim 135; further
14 comprising a video input device for generating at least one of a
15 video signal and an audio signal; and means for transmitting the at
16 least one video signal and audio signal as a wireless signal.

17 139
18 ~~138.~~) A wireless display terminal system according to claim 135;
19 further comprising remote control signal generating means for
20 generating remote control signals effective for controlling
21 computers and appliances receptive of such control signals.

22
23 140.) An antenna node device, characterized by: an antenna for receiving a wireless
24 signal; first conditioning means for conditioning the wireless signal into a wired
25 medium transmission signal for effective transmission over a wired network;
26 connecting means for connecting the conditioning means to the wired network,
27 whereby the received wireless signal is converted into the wired medium transmission
28 signal and injected onto the wired network.

29
30 141.) An antenna node device according to claim 140, further comprising; means for
31 receiving a wired medium transmission signal from a wired network; second
32 conditioning means for conditioning the received wired medium transmission signal
33 into a wireless signal effective for wireless transmission; and emitting means for
34 emitting the wireless signal, whereby the received wired medium transmission signal is
35 converted into the wireless signal and emitted for reception by a remote wireless device.

- 1 142.) An antenna node device according to claim 140; wherein the first conditioning
2 means comprising an down-converter and the second conditioning means comprises a
3 up-converter.
- 4 143.) An antenna node according to claim 142; wherein the up-converter is effective
5 for converting a received 900 MHz band signal to a 2.4 Ghz band signal; and the down-
6 converter is effective for converting a received 2.4 Ghz band signal to a 900 Mhz band
7 signal.
8

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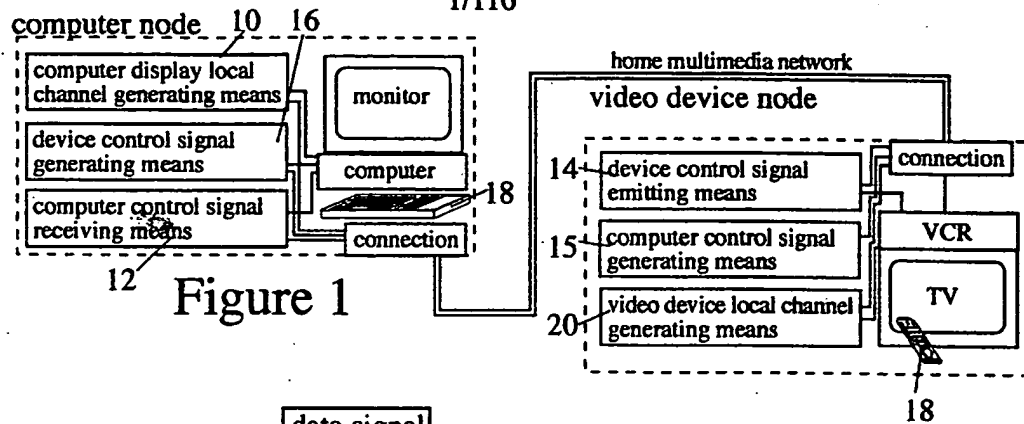


Figure 1

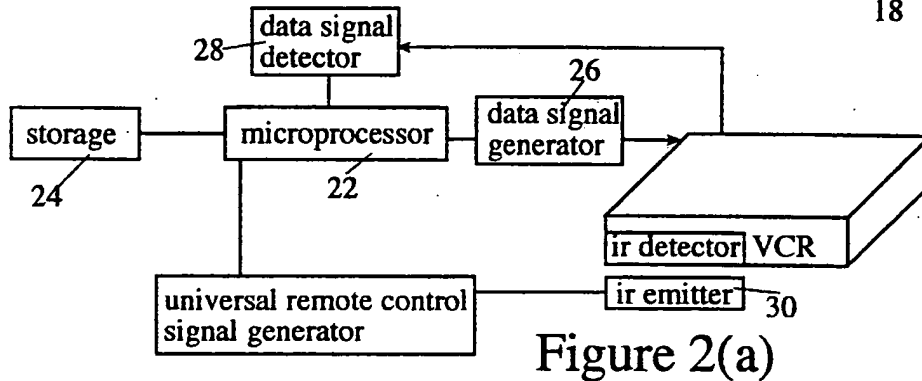


Figure 2(a)

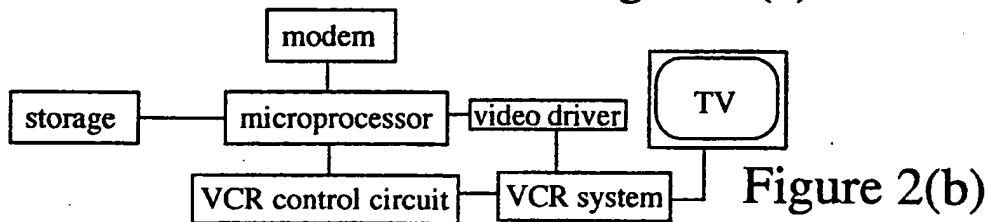


Figure 2(b)

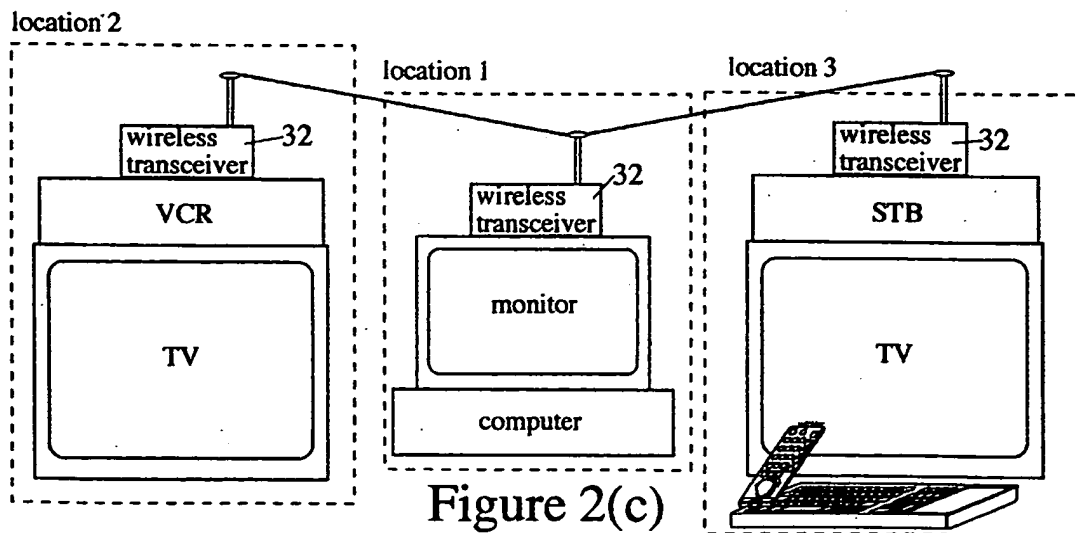


Figure 2(c)

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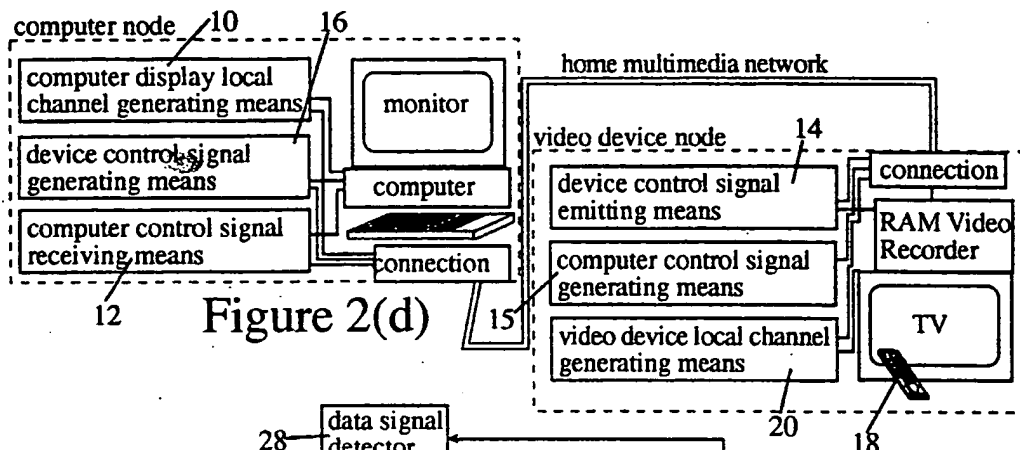


Figure 2(d)

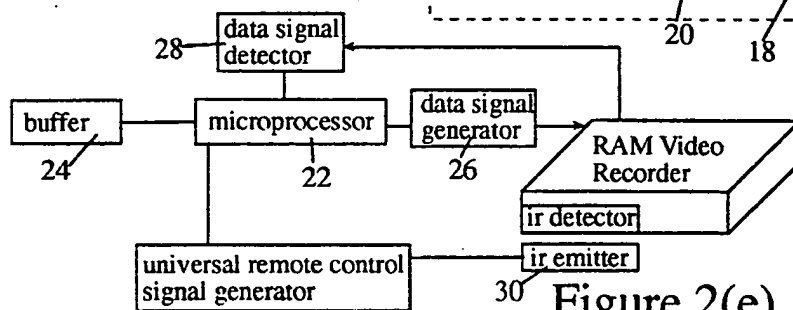


Figure 2(e)

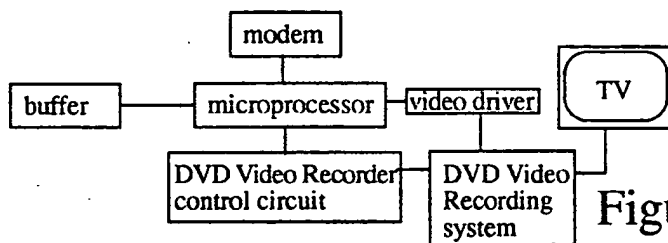


Figure 2(f)

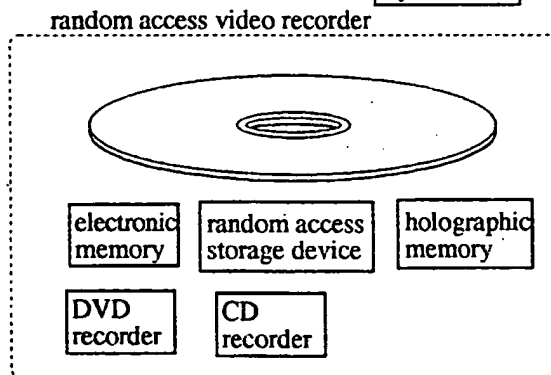


Figure 2(g)

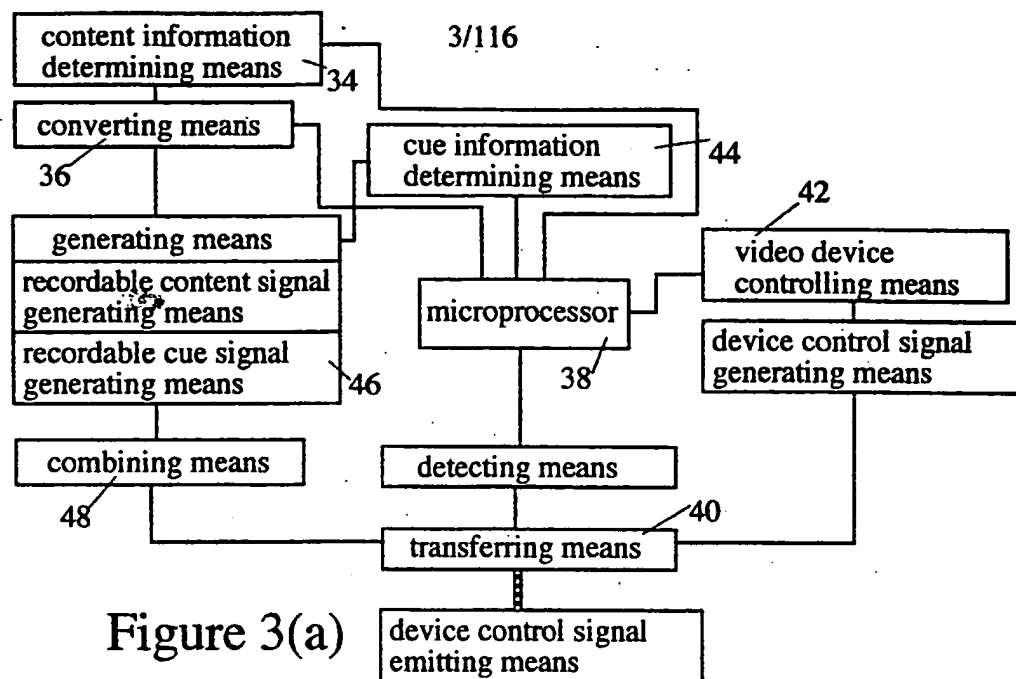


Figure 3(a)

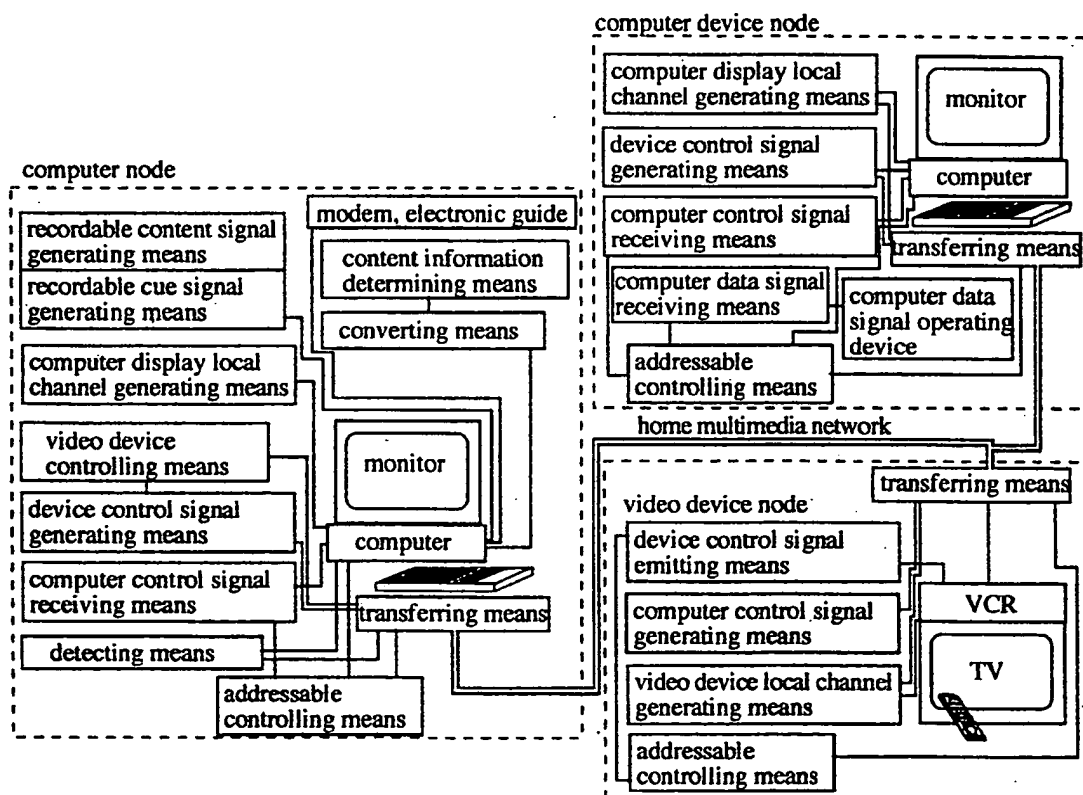
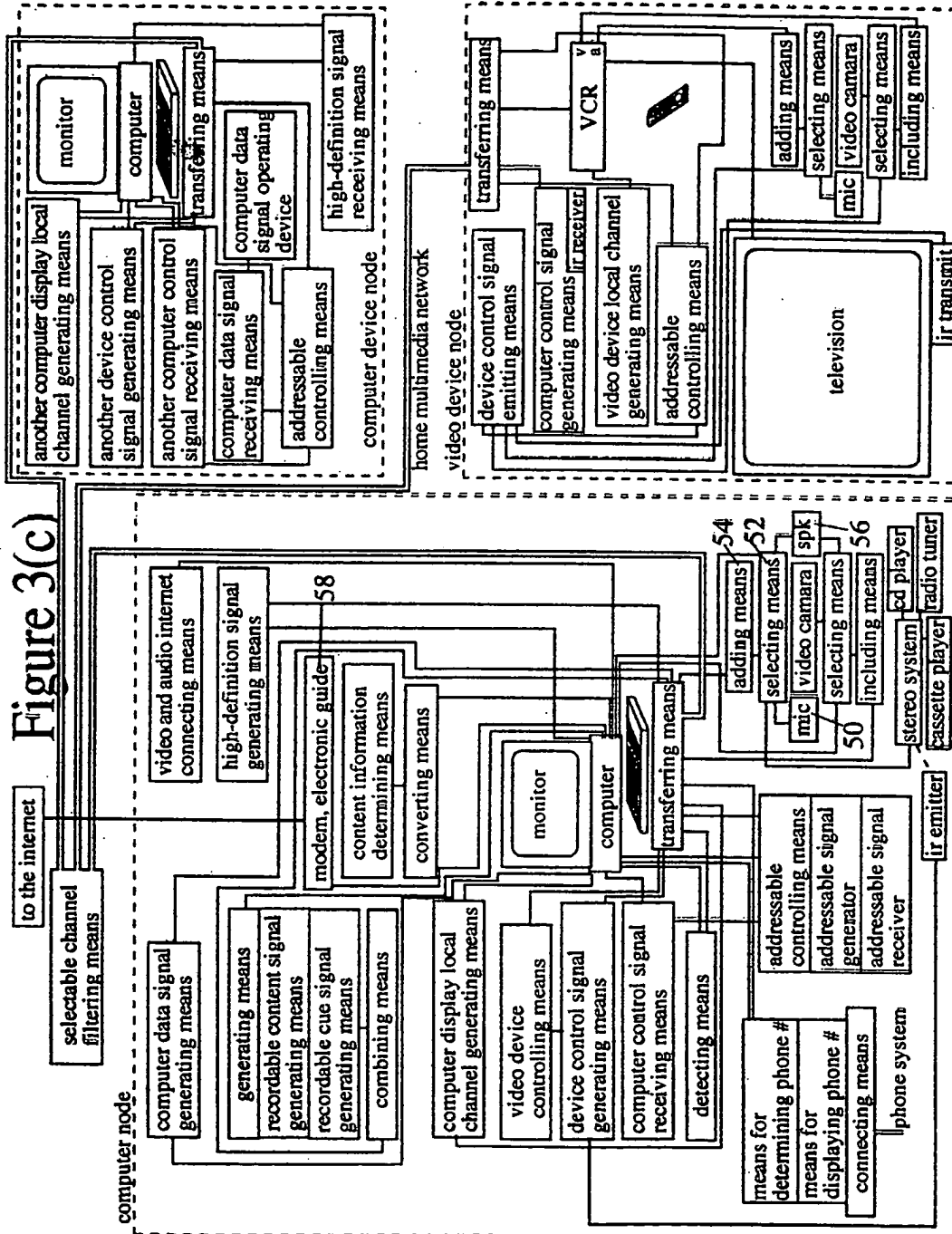
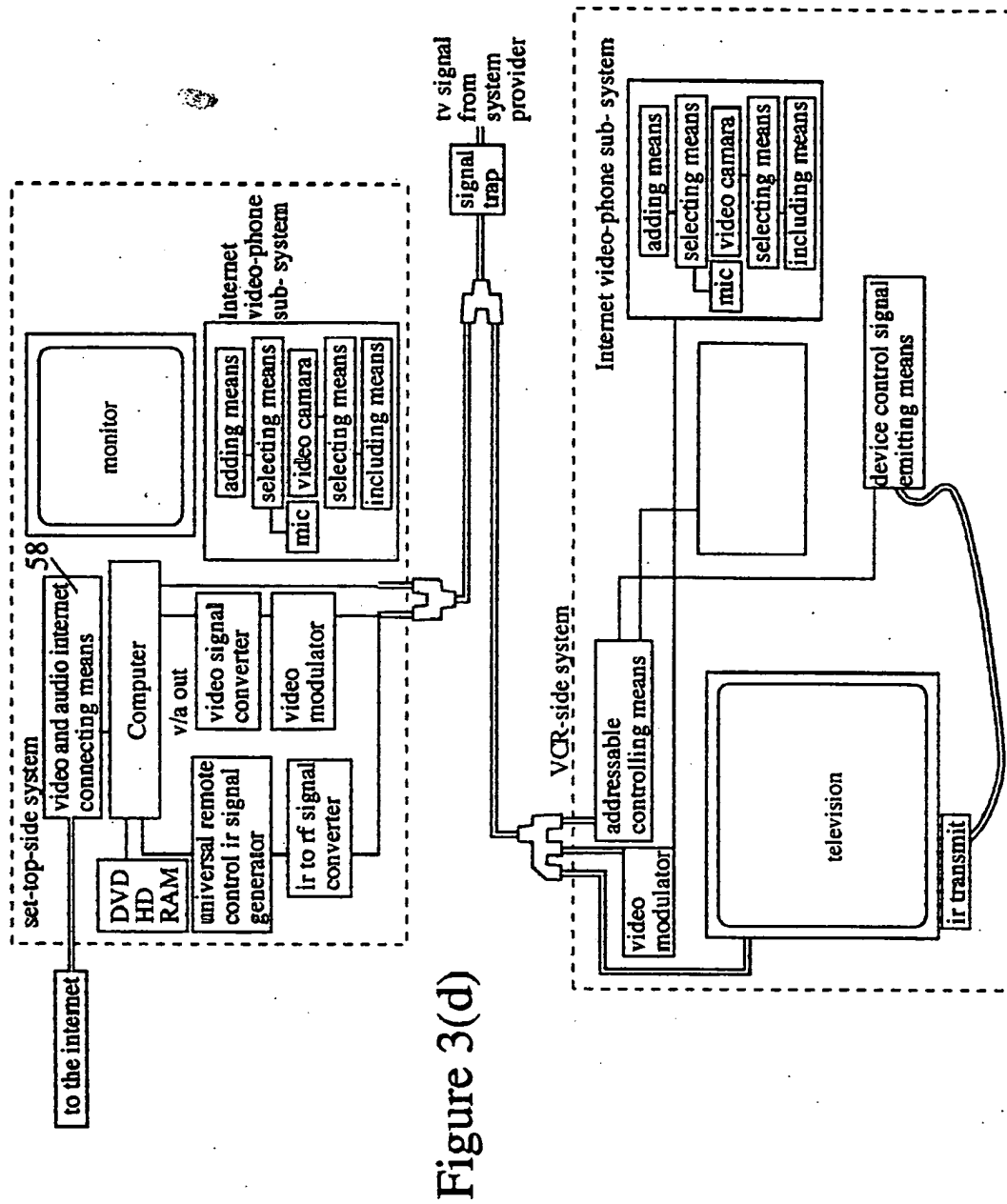


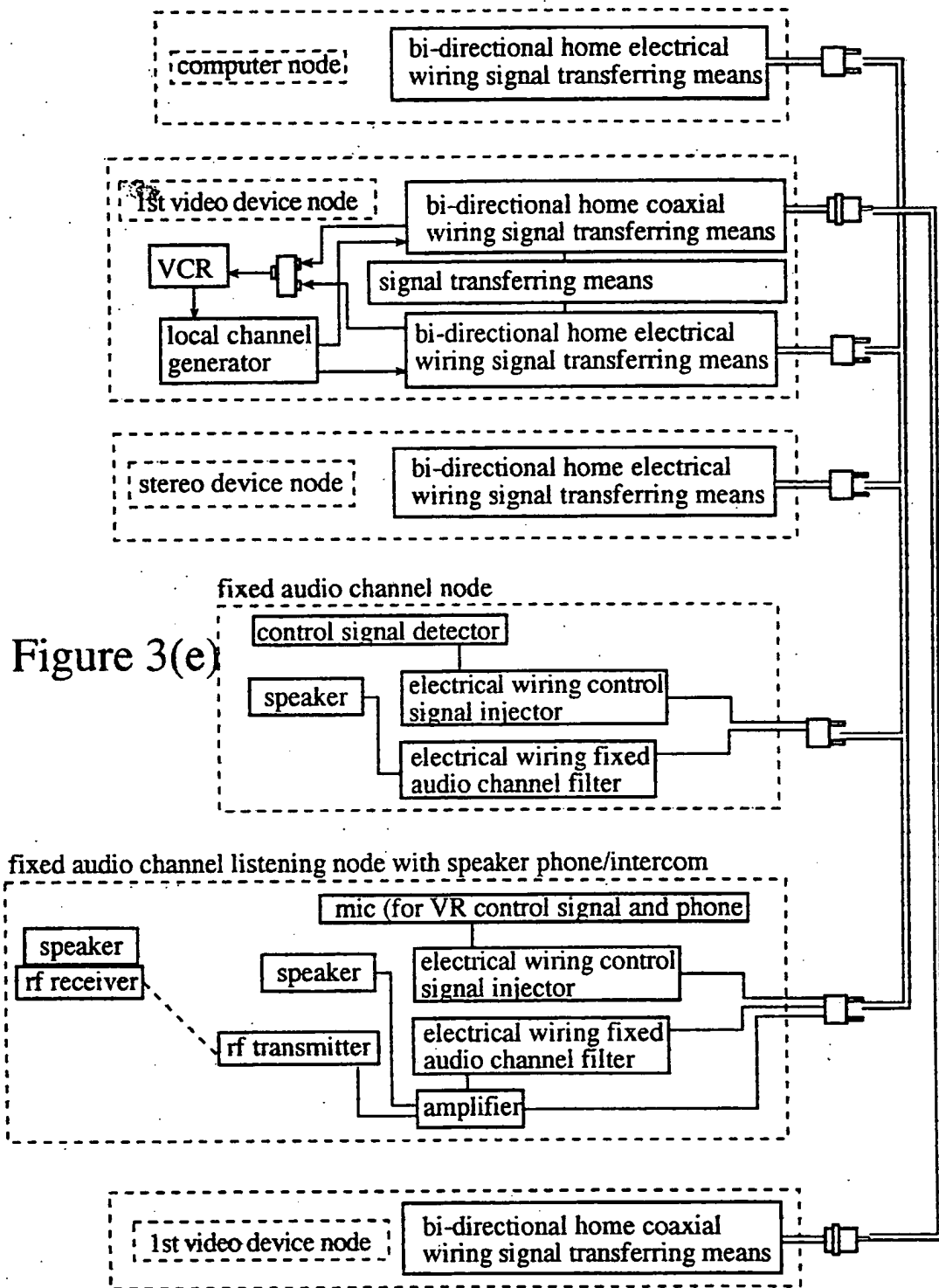
Figure 3(b)



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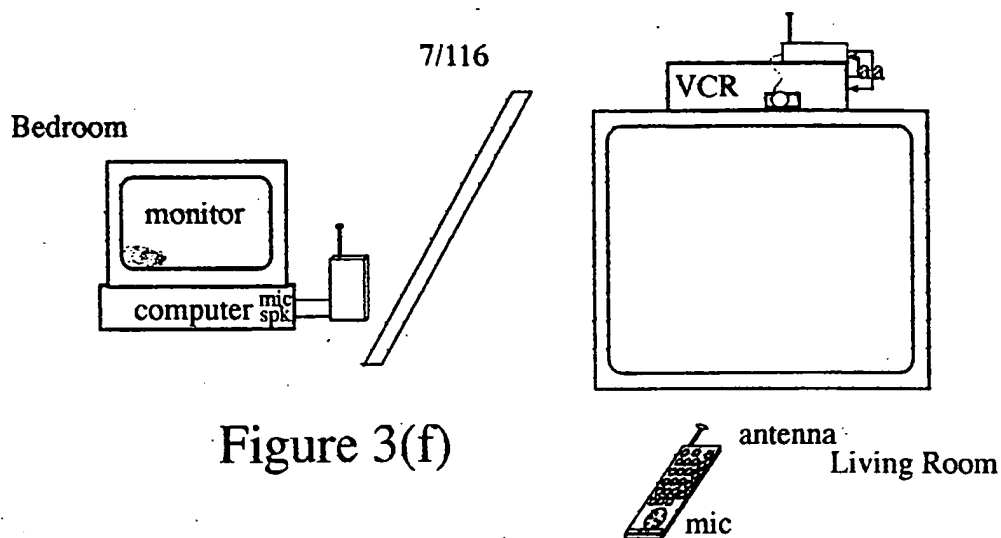


Figure 3(f)

button1	frequency1	pulse train1	stop
button2	frequency2	pulse train2	play
button3	frequency3	pulse train3	record
button4	frequency4	pulse train4	pause
button5	frequency5	pulse train5	fast forward
button6	frequency6	pulse train6	channel up
button7	frequency7	pulse train7	channel down
button8	frequency8	pulse train8	
button9	frequency9	pulse train9	
button1	frequency10	pulse train10	
button11	frequency11	pulse train11	
button12	frequency12	pulse train12	

Figure 3(g)

example
vcr and tv
controls

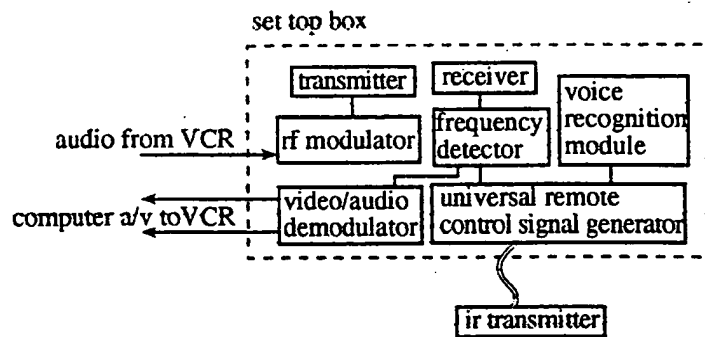
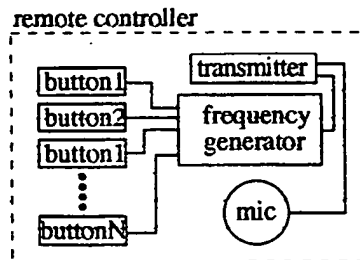
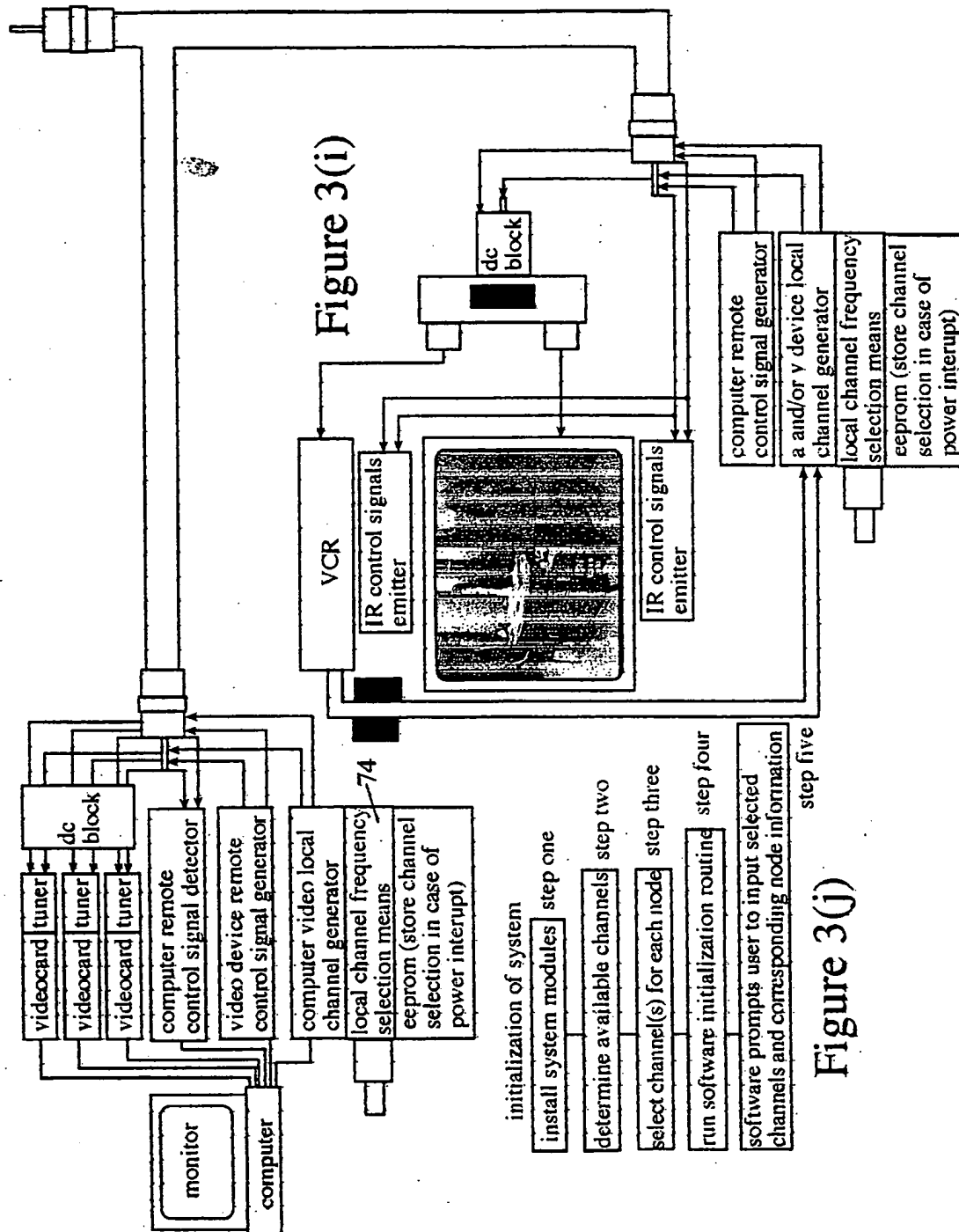


Figure 3(h)

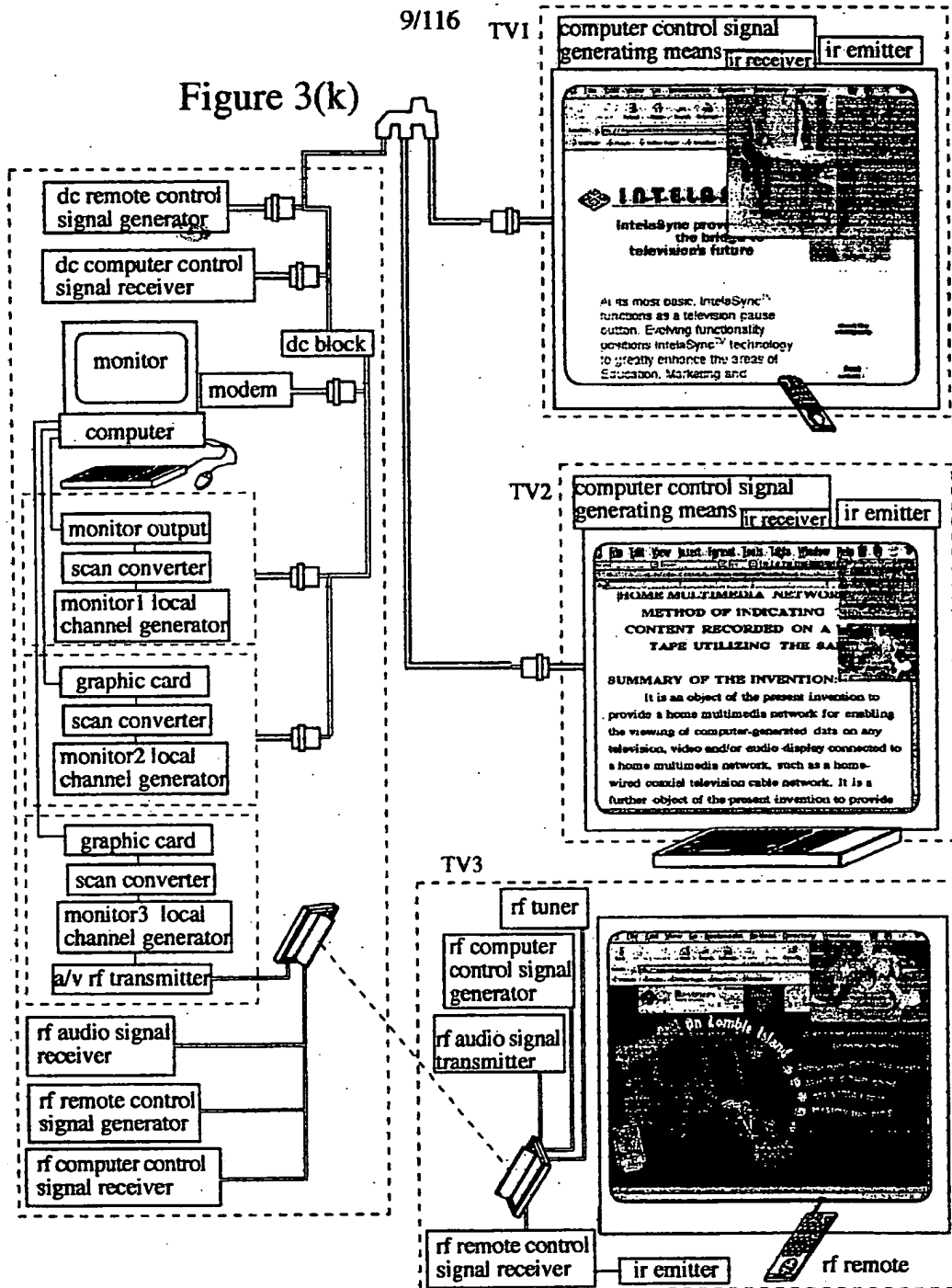


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**Figure 3(j)**

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Figure 3(k)



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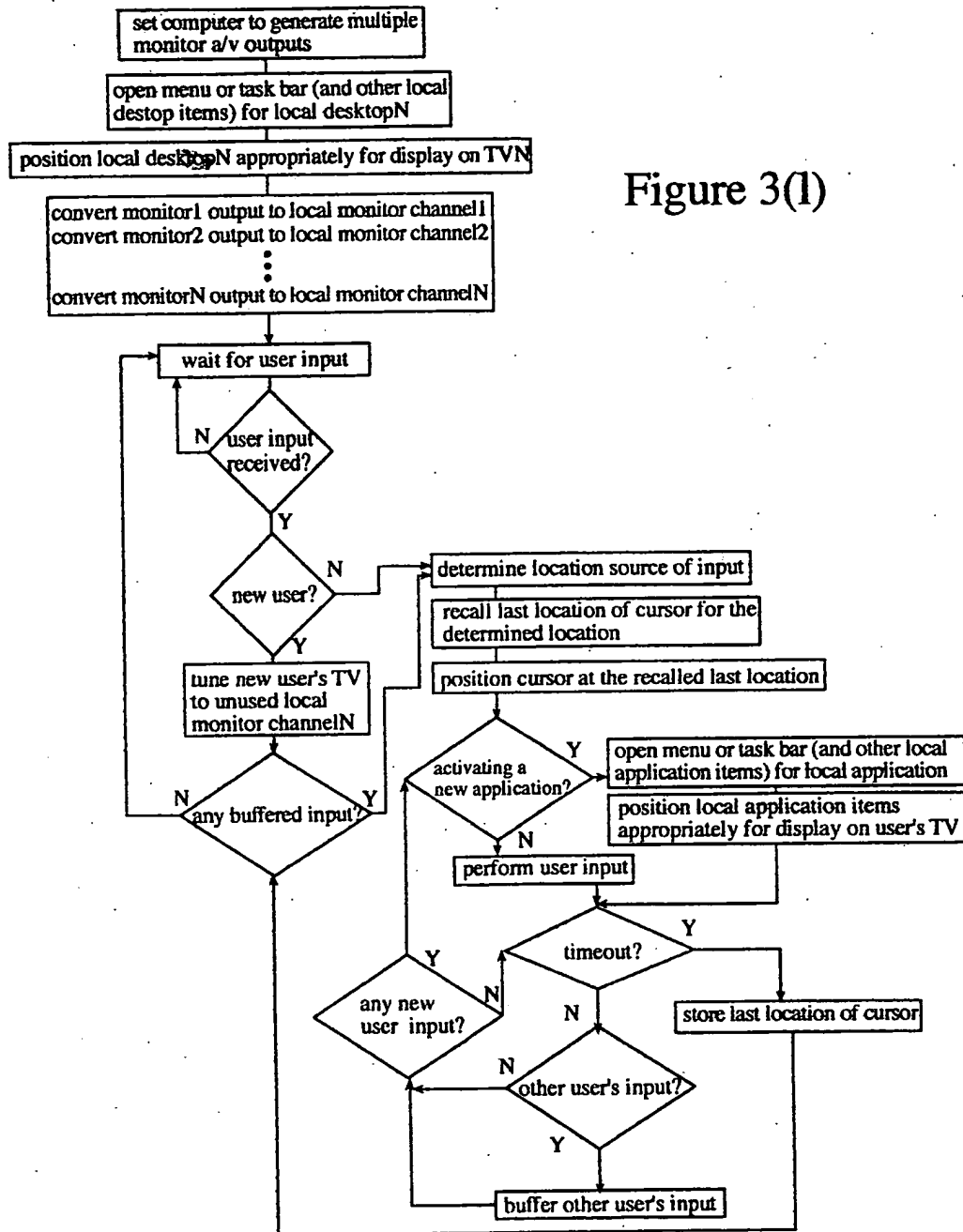
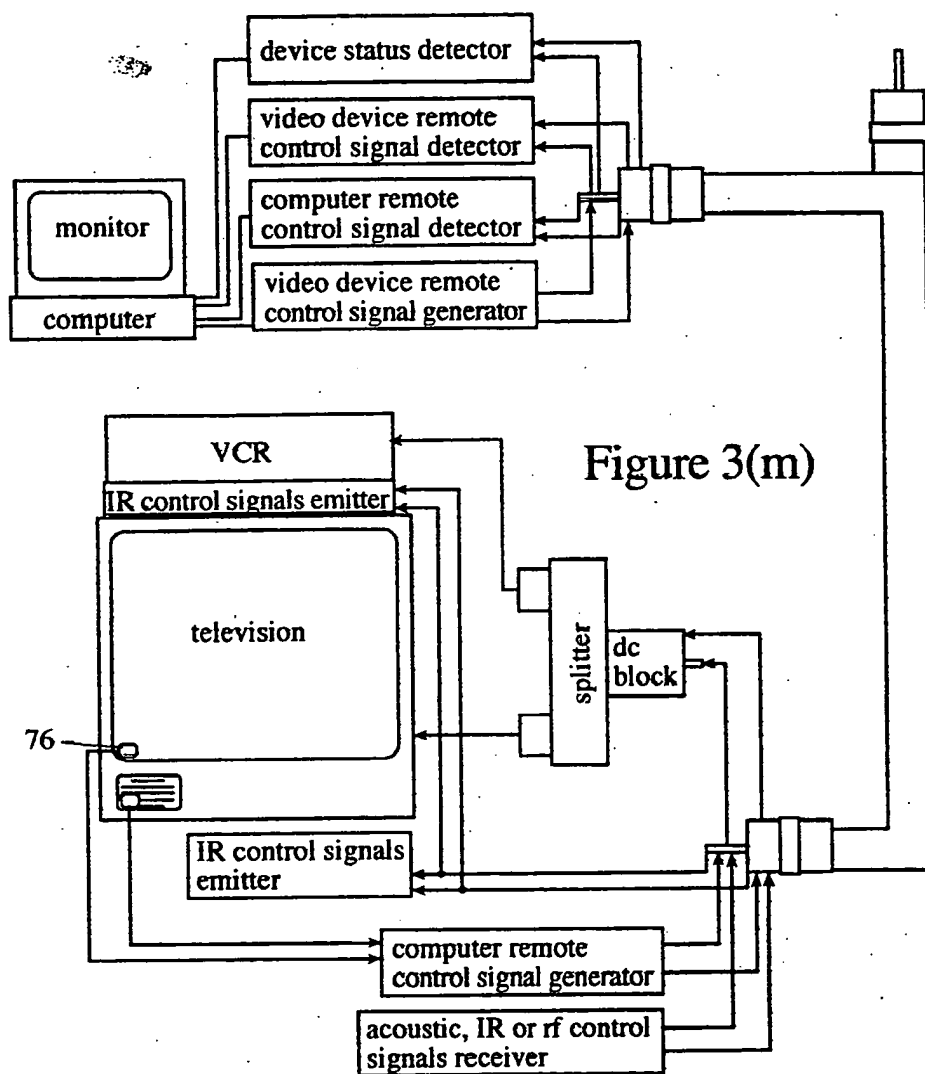
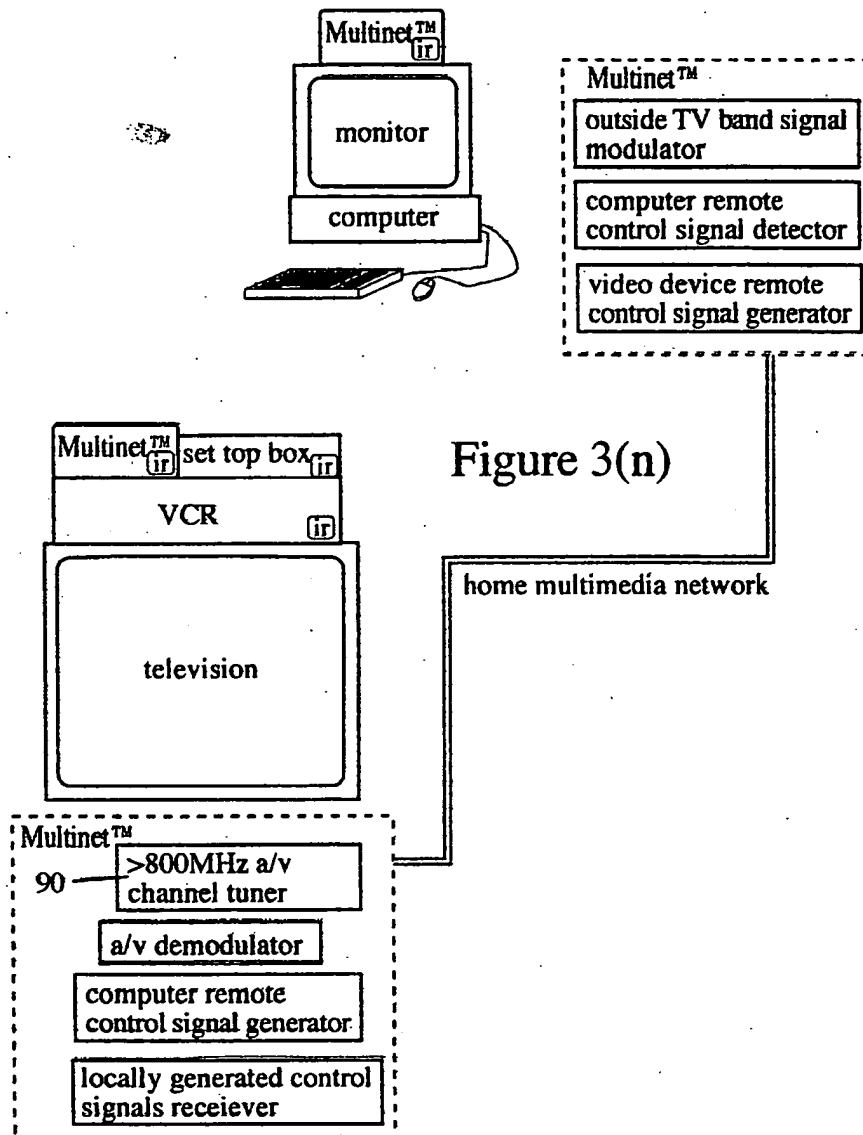


Figure 3(1)

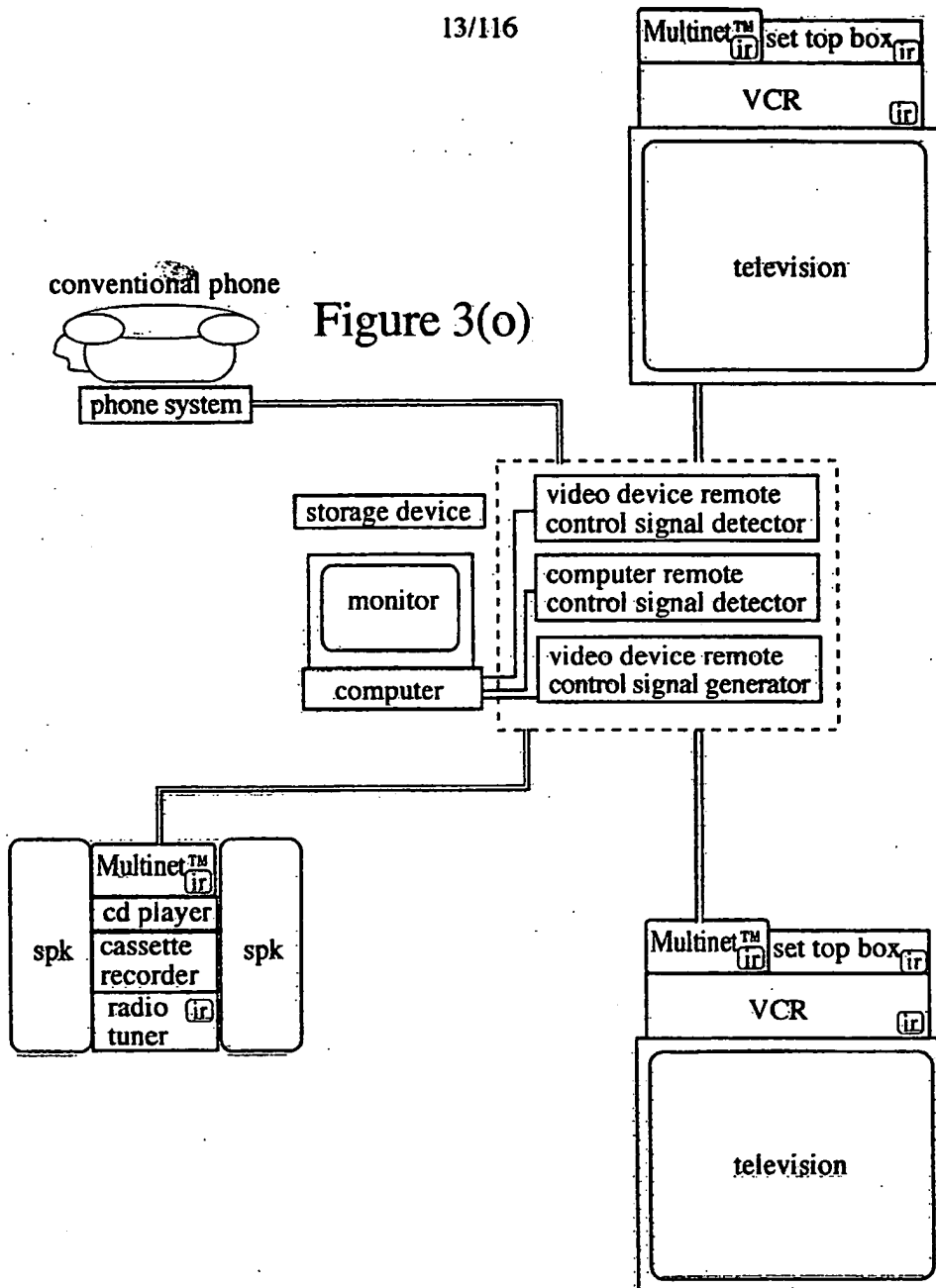
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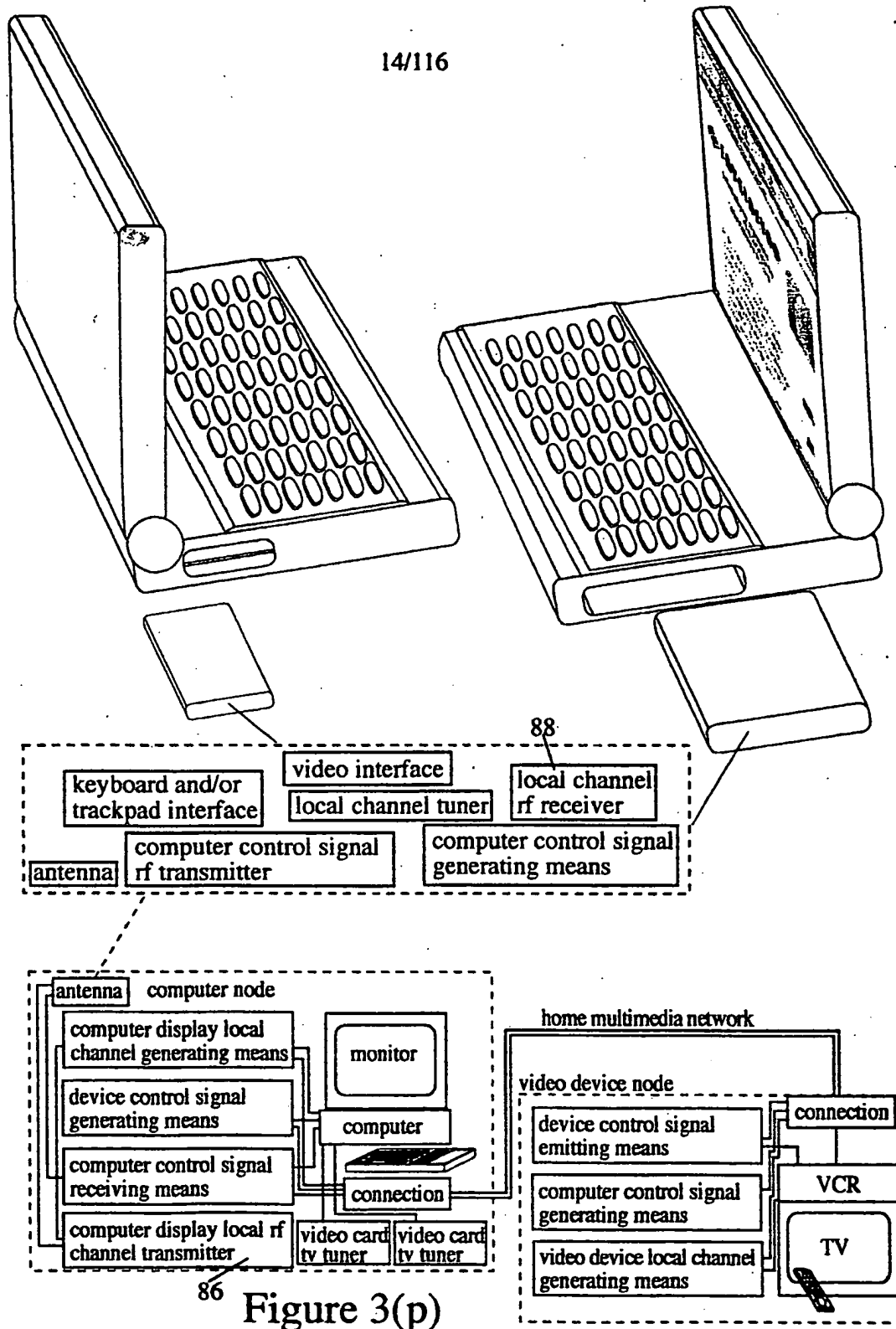
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86 Figure 3(p)

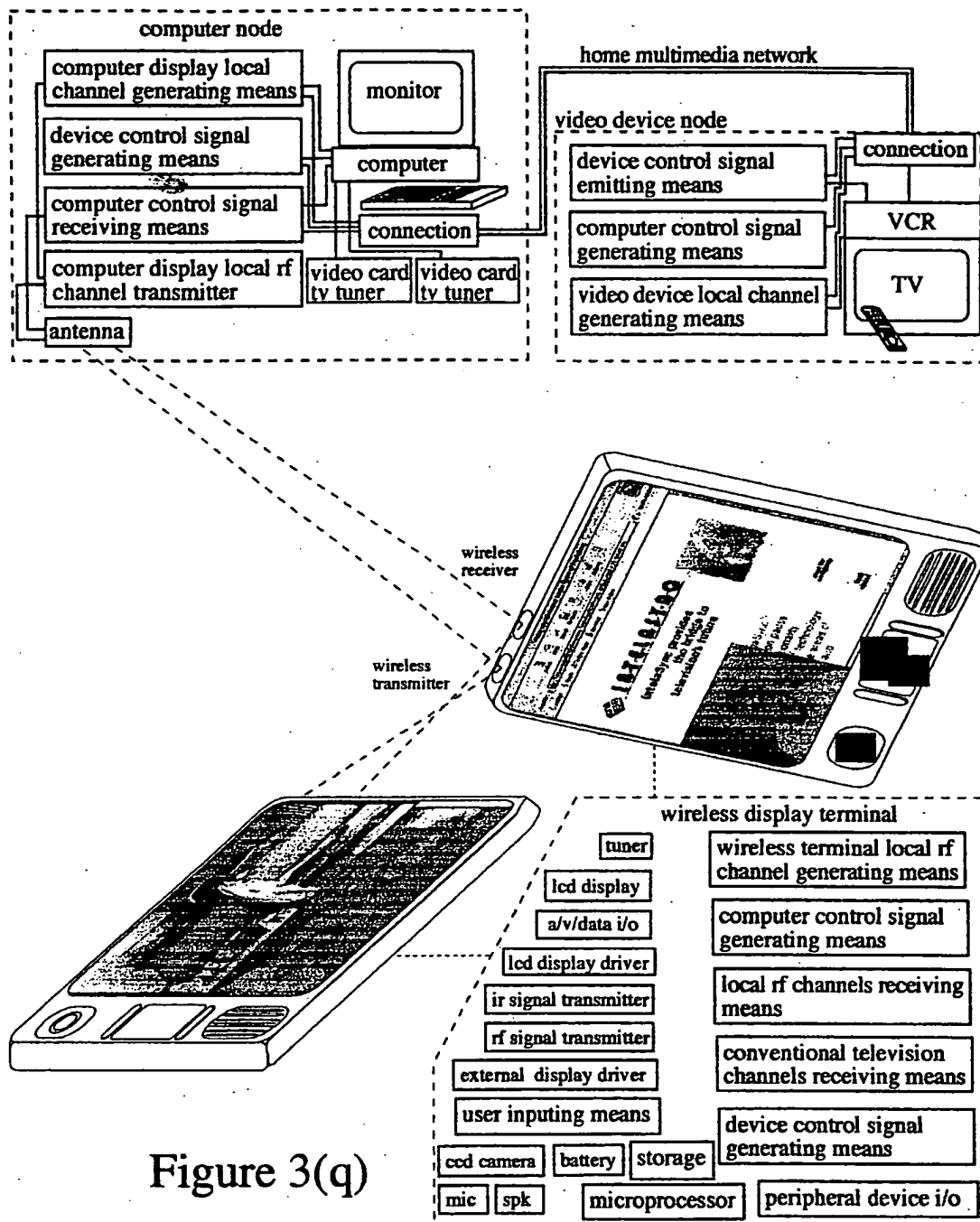


Figure 3(q)

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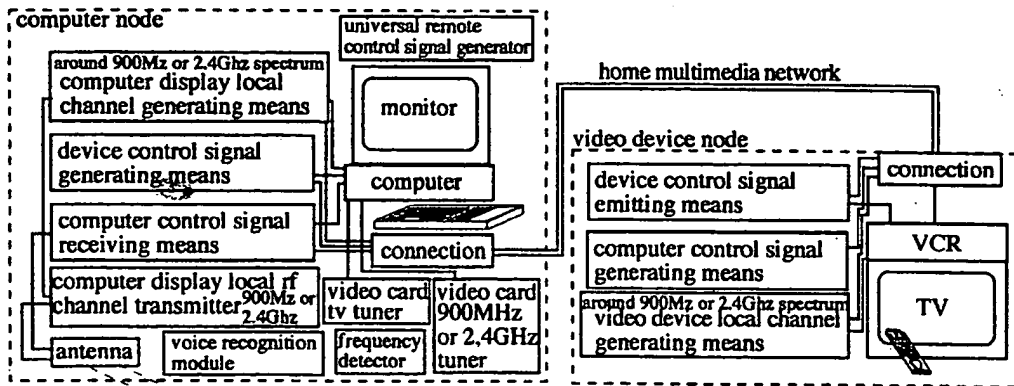
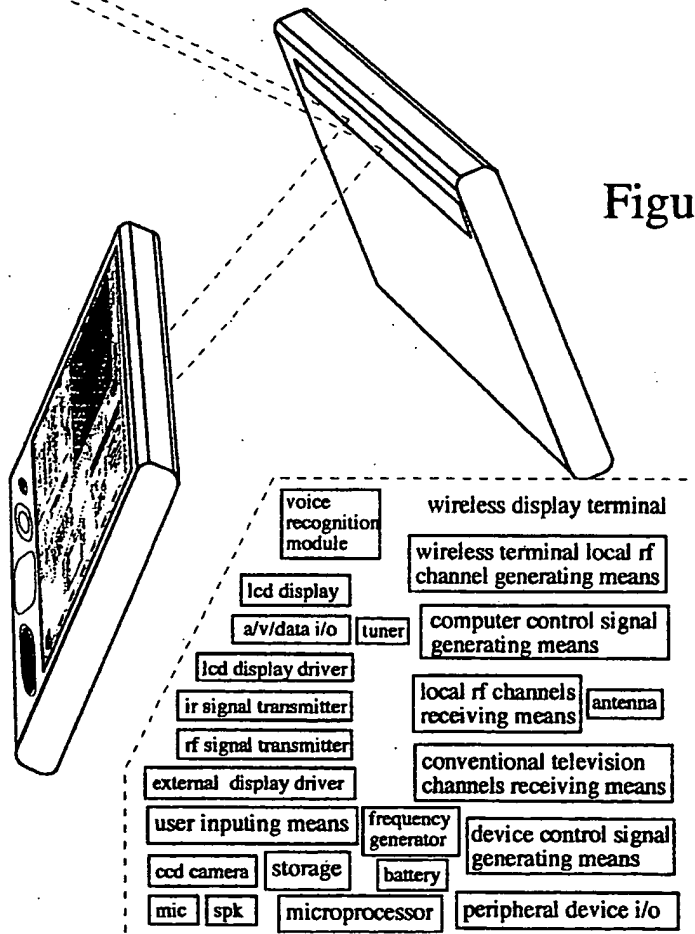


Figure 3(r)



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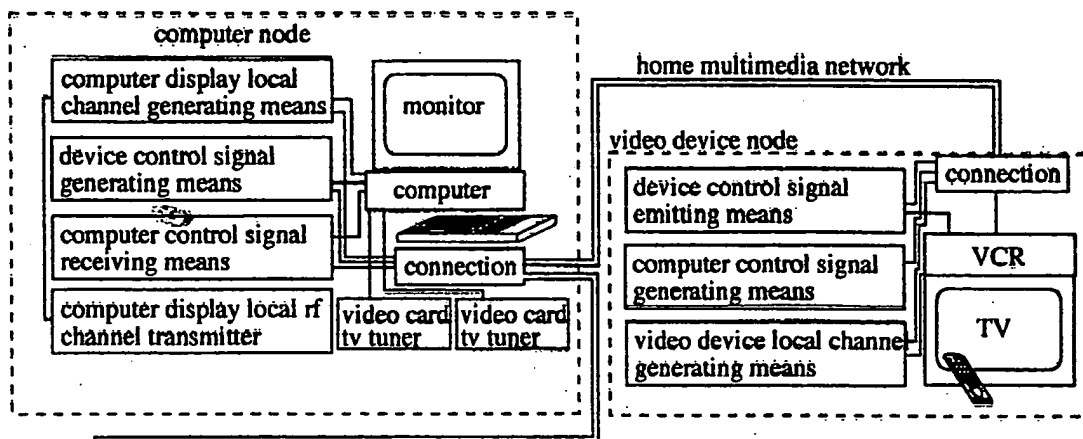
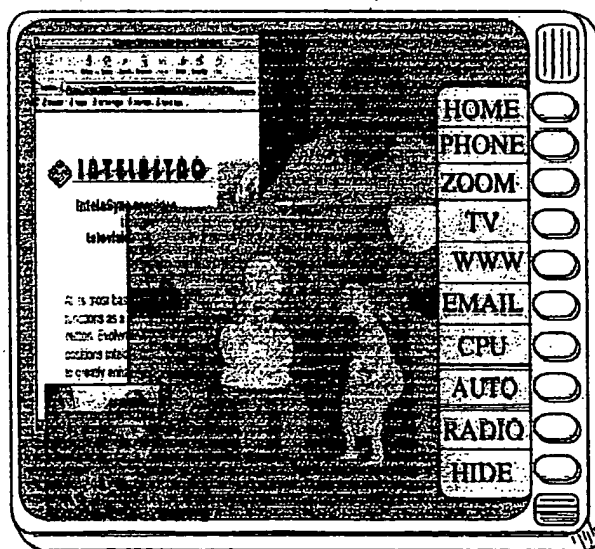
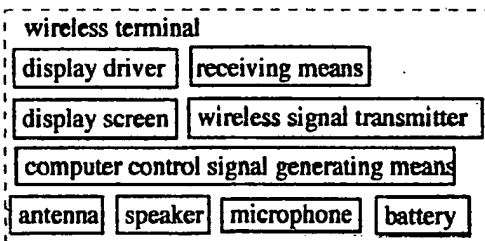
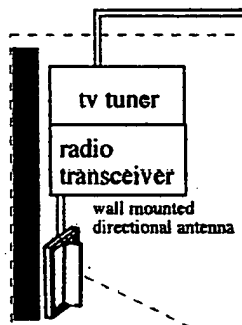
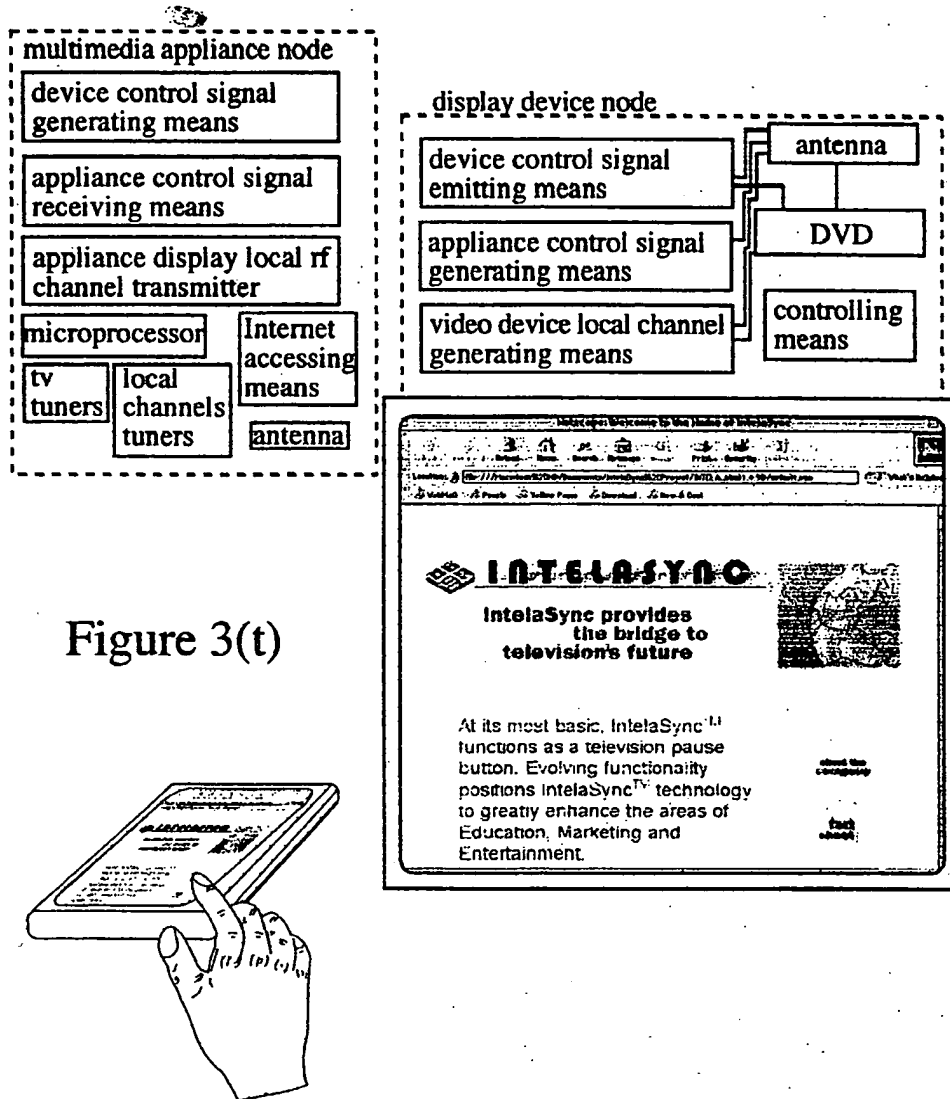
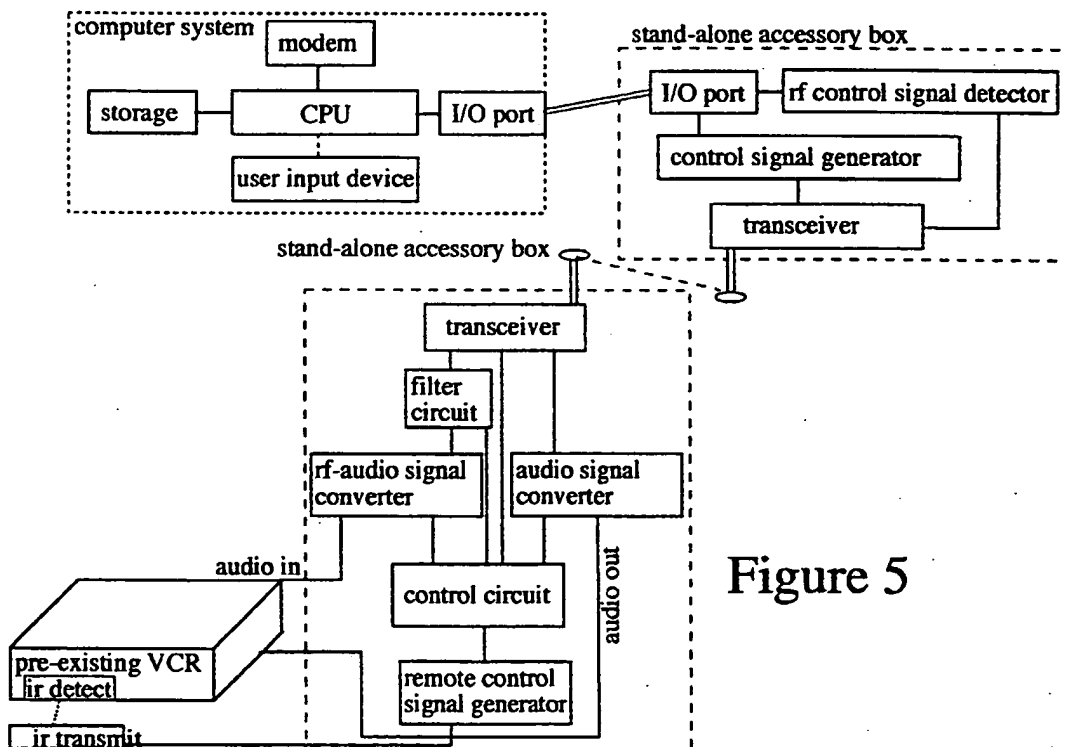
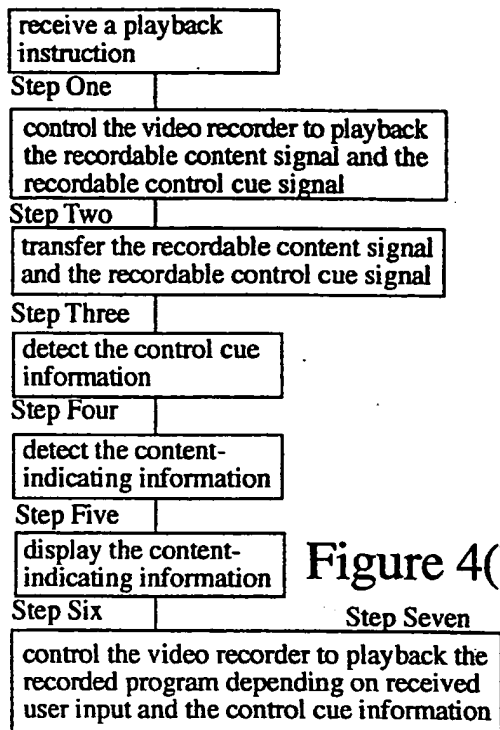
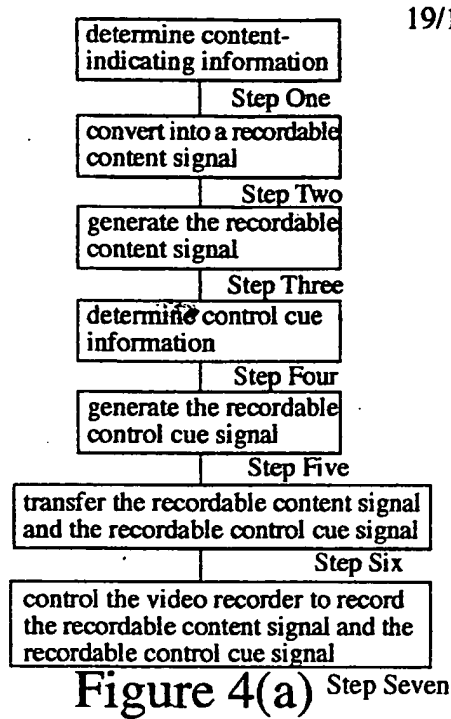


Figure 3(s)



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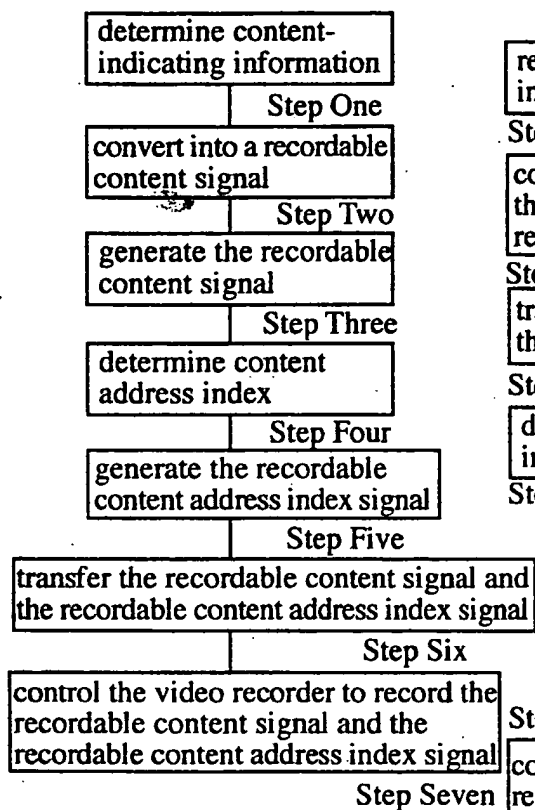


Figure 4(c)

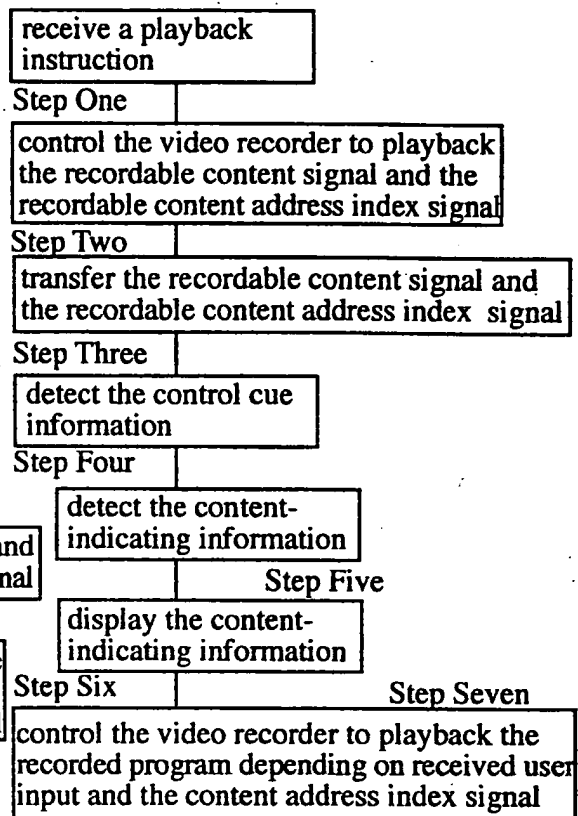


Figure 4(d)

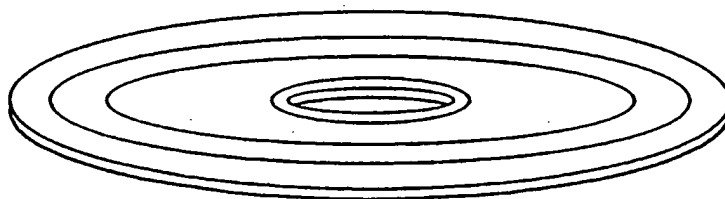
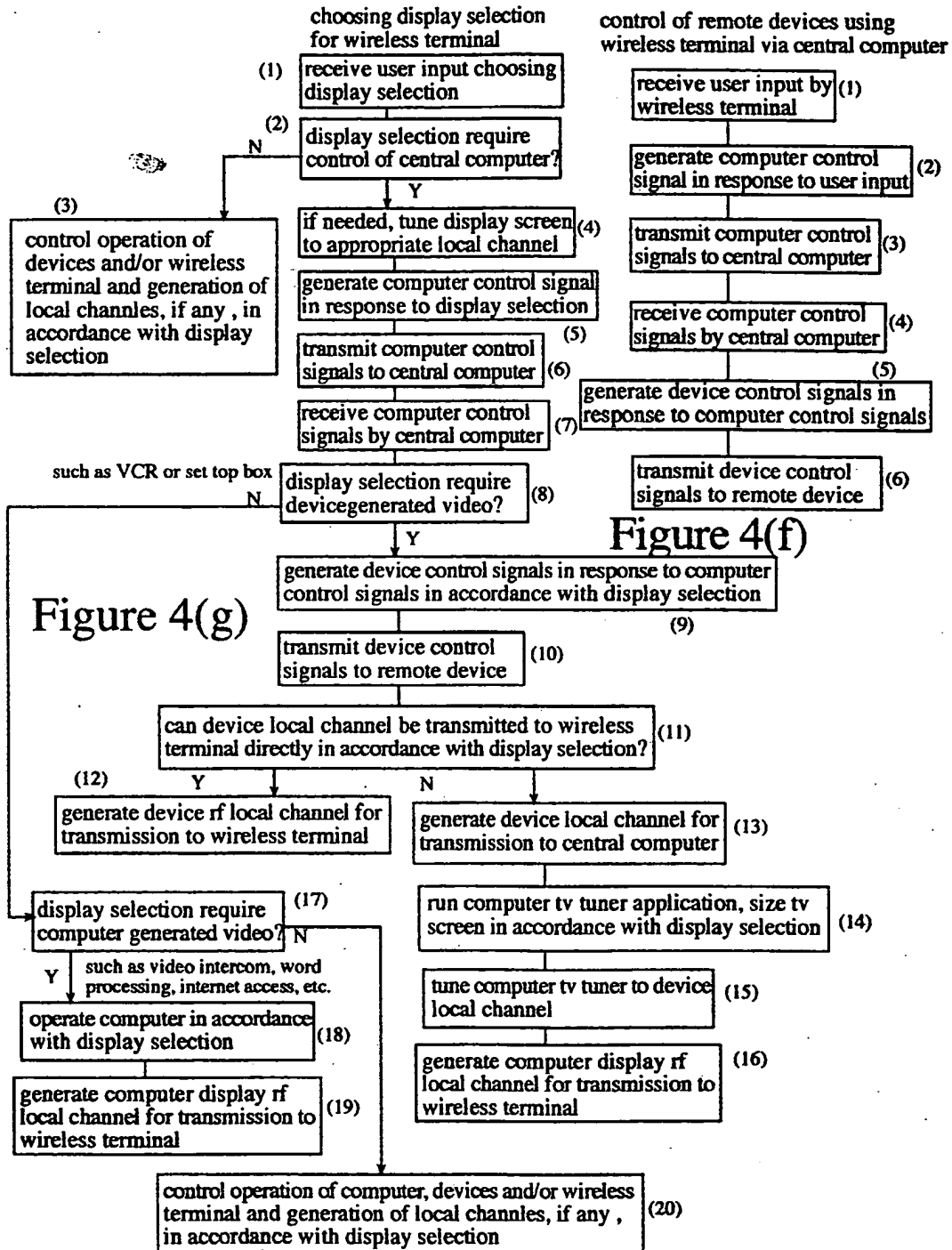


Figure 4(e)

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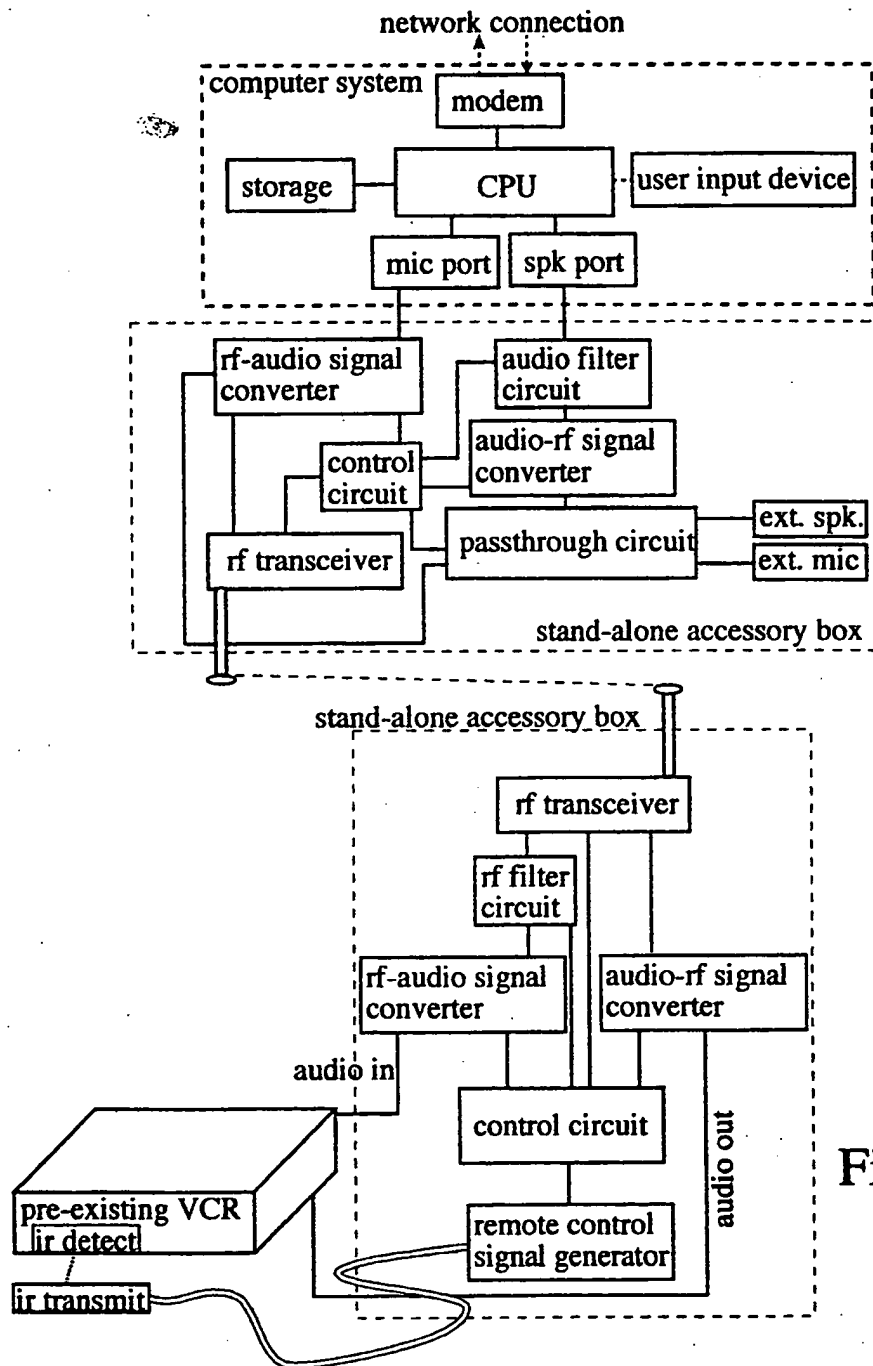


Figure 6

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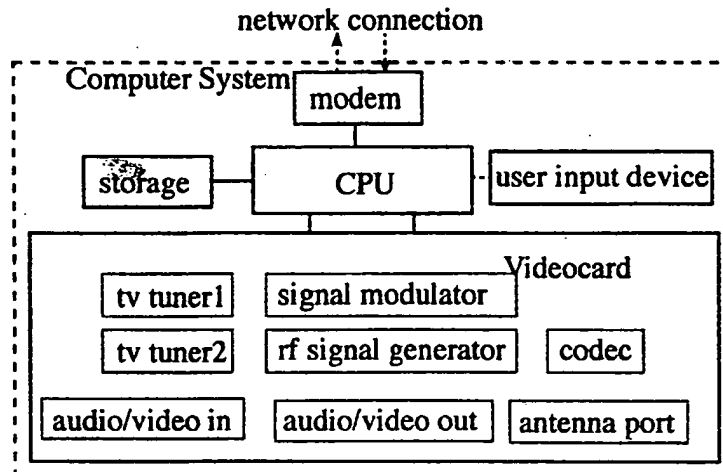
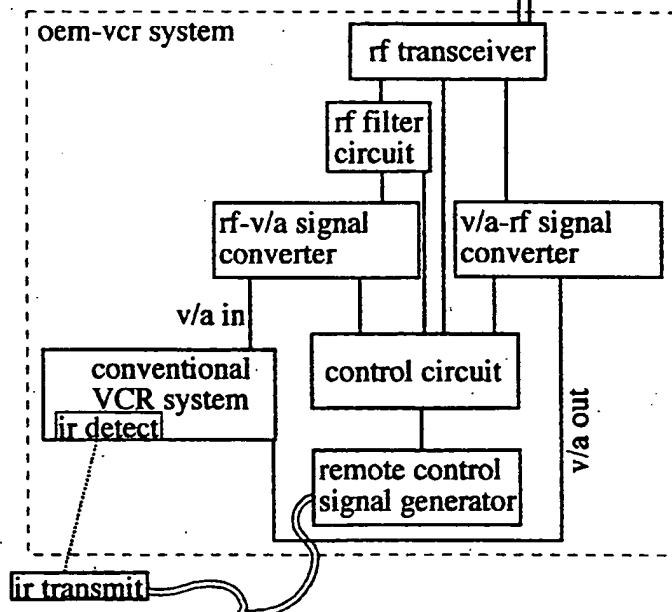
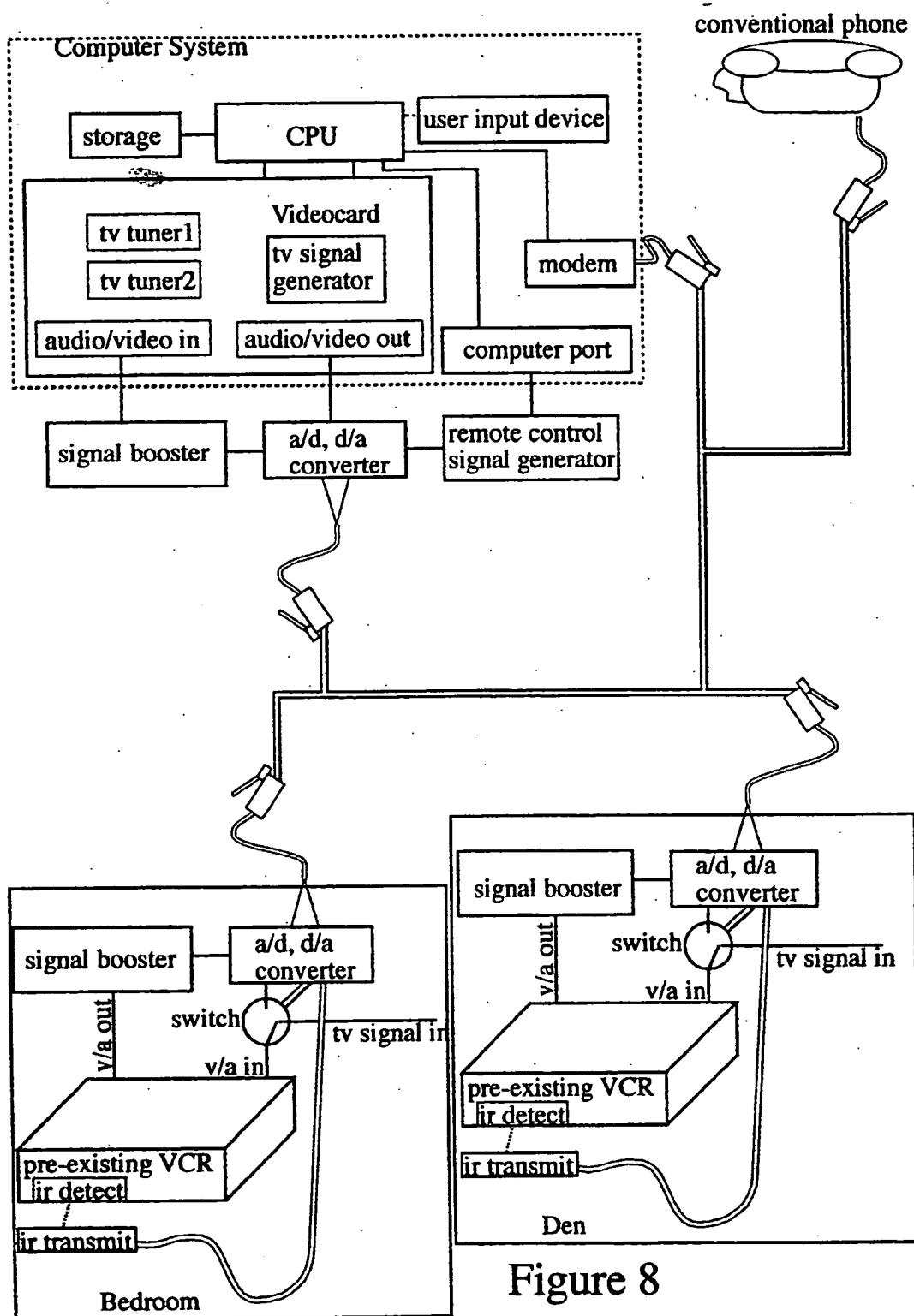


Figure 7



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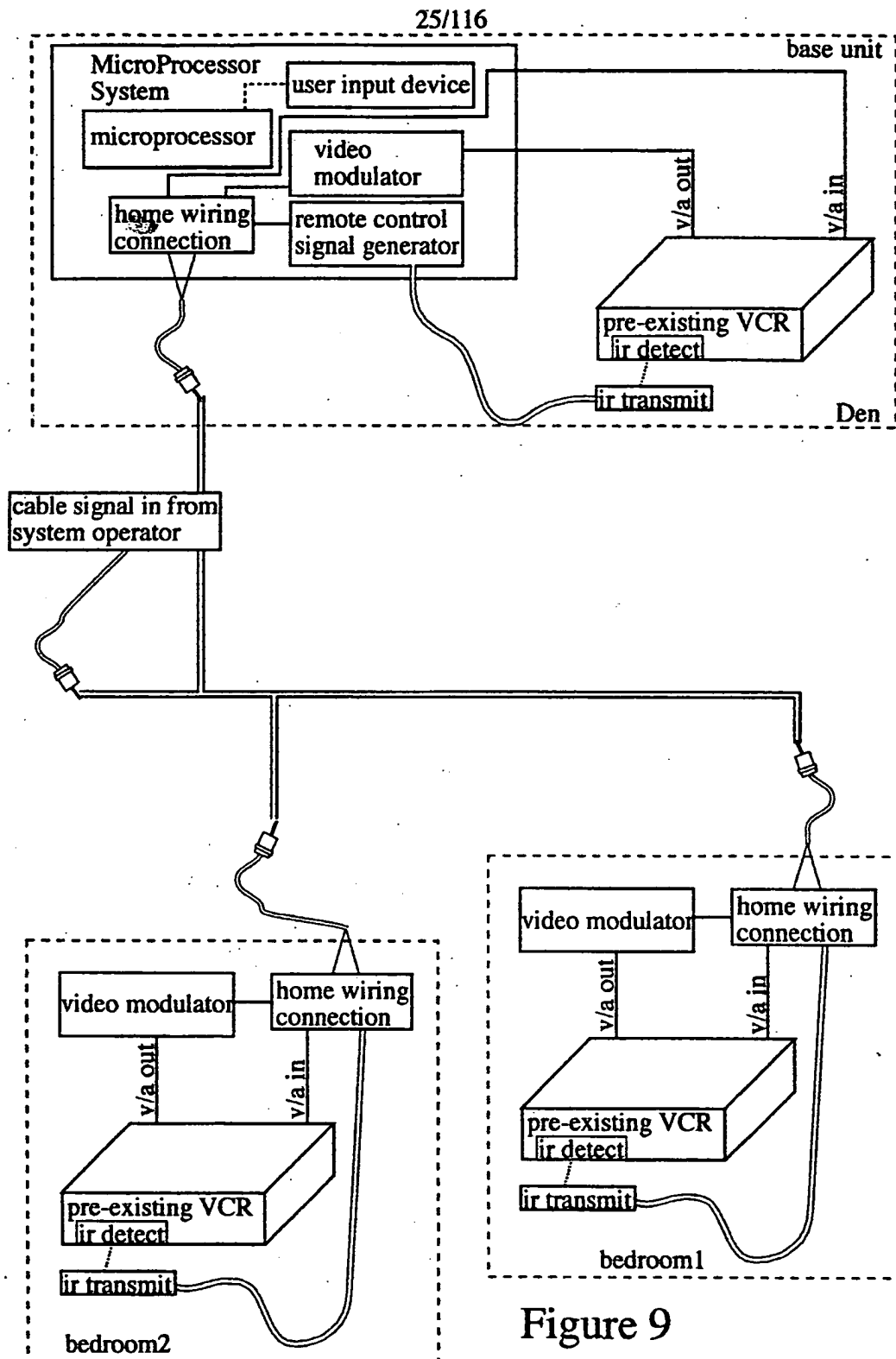


Figure 9

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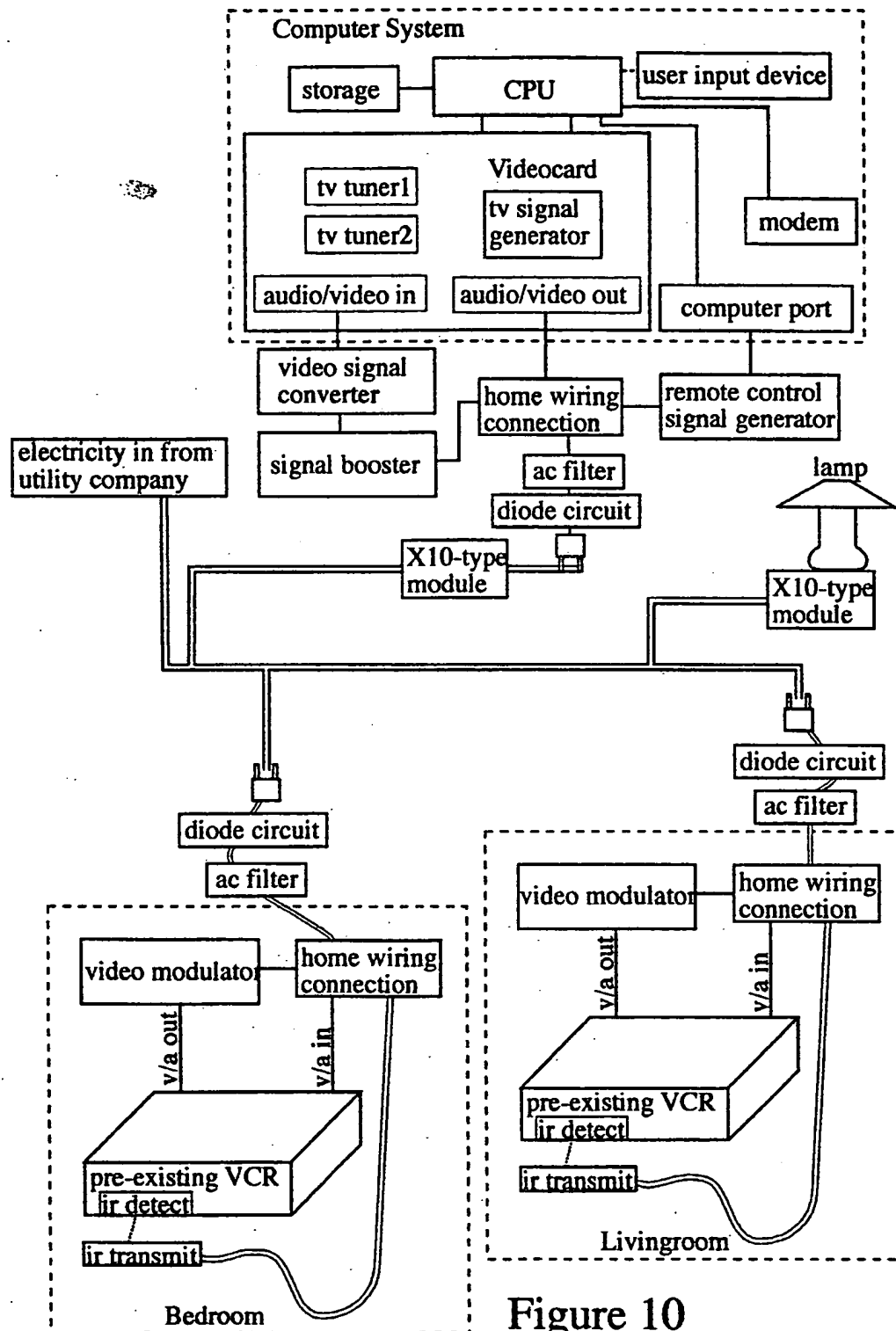


Figure 10

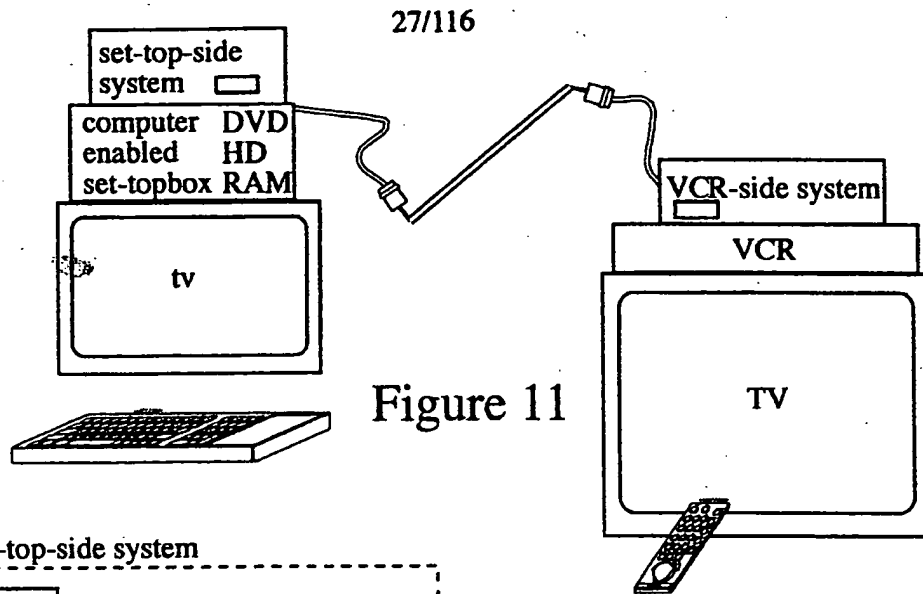


Figure 11

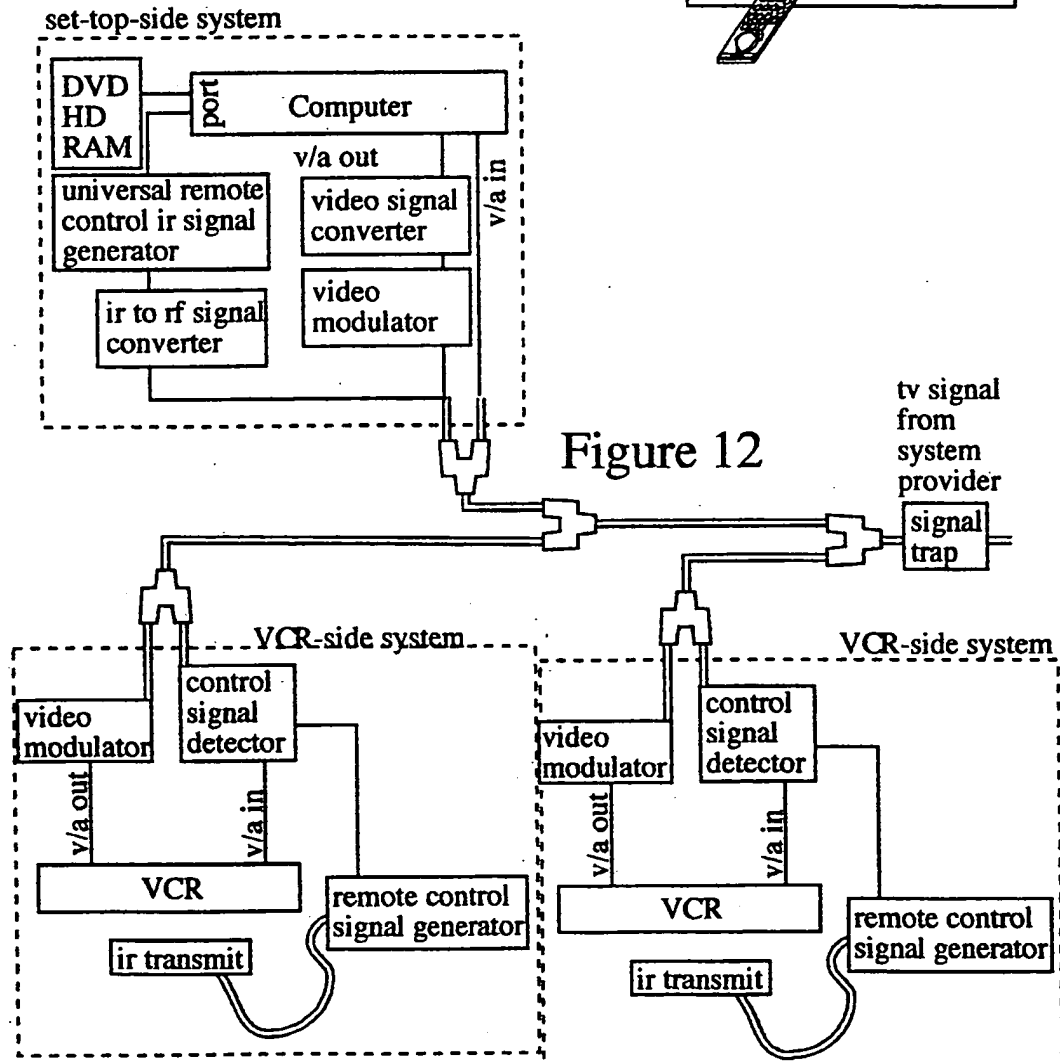


Figure 12

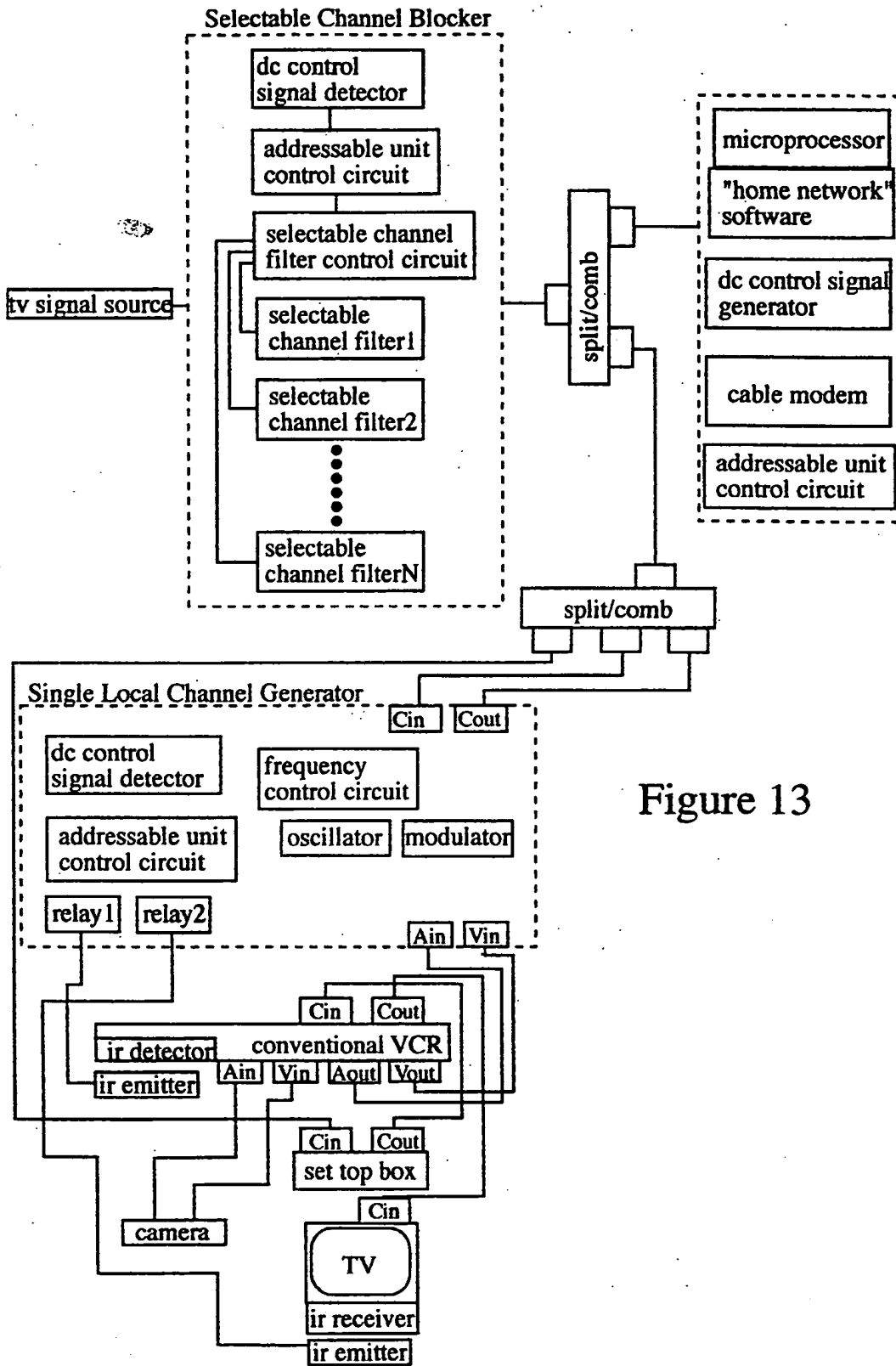


Figure 13

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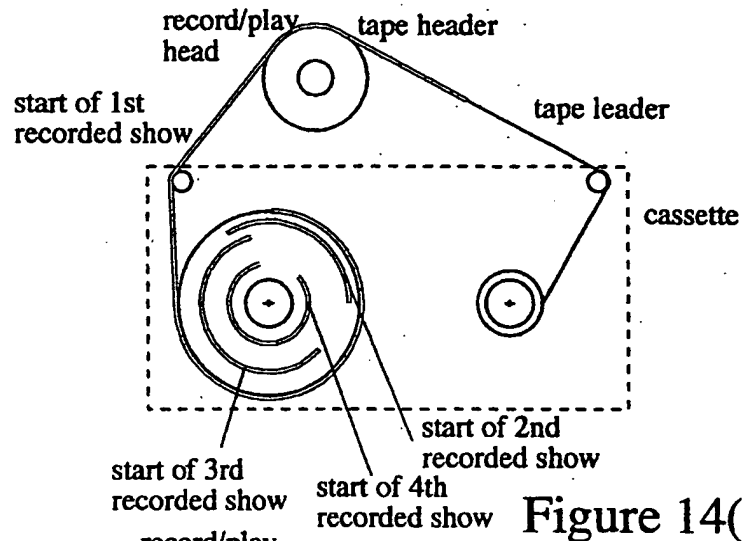


Figure 14(a)

Figure 15

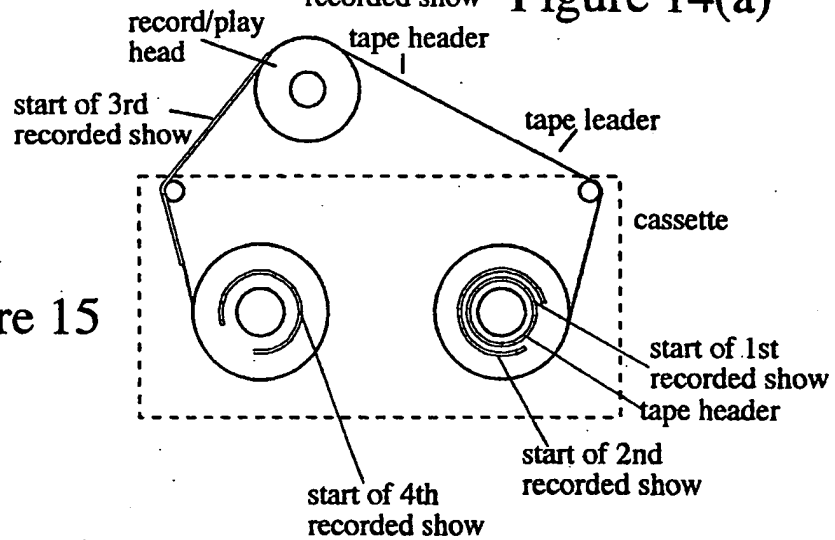
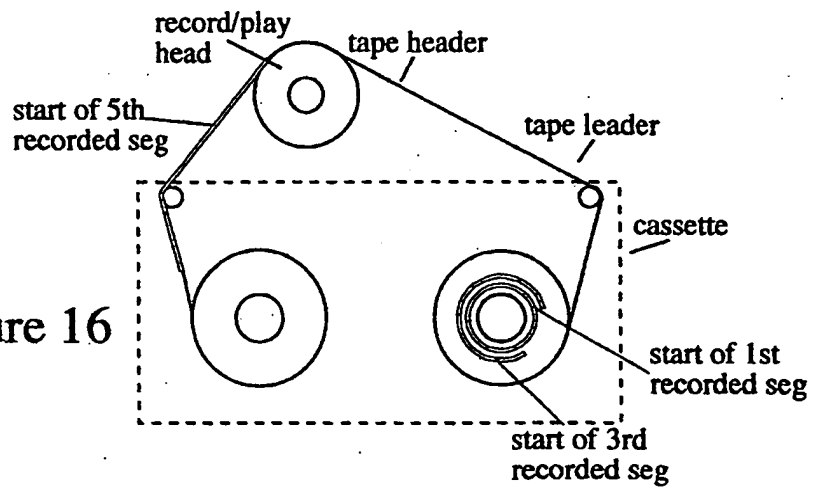


Figure 16



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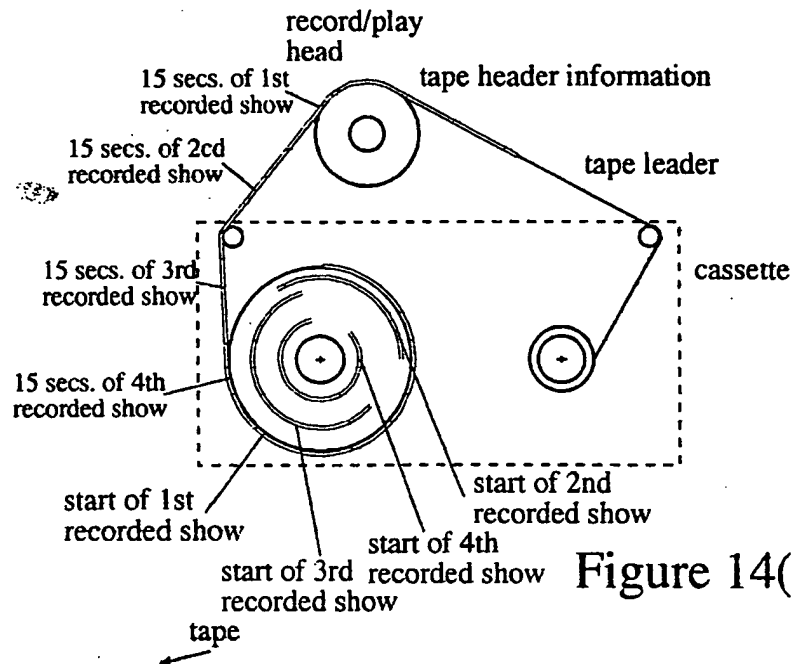


Figure 14(b)

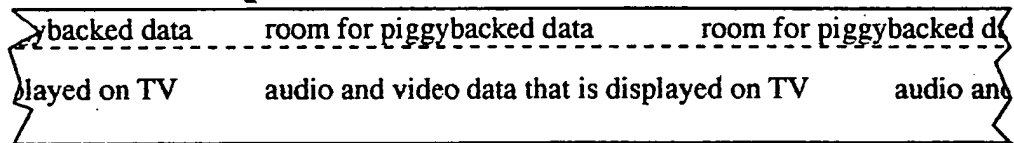


Figure 14(c)

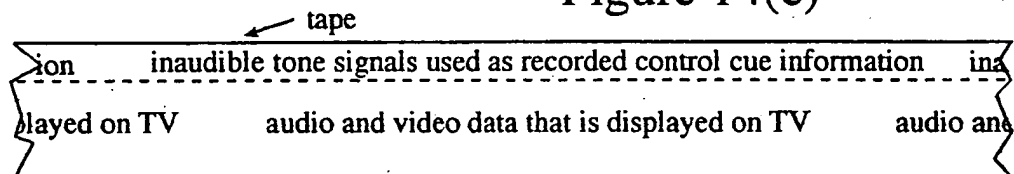


Figure 14(d)

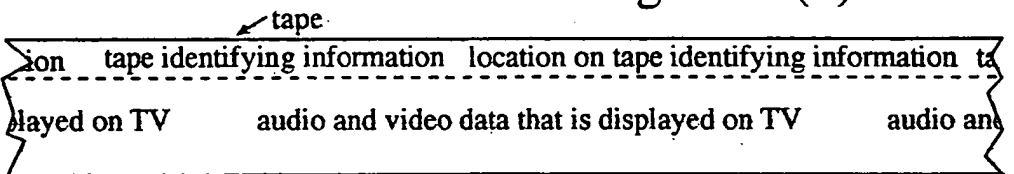


Figure 14(e)

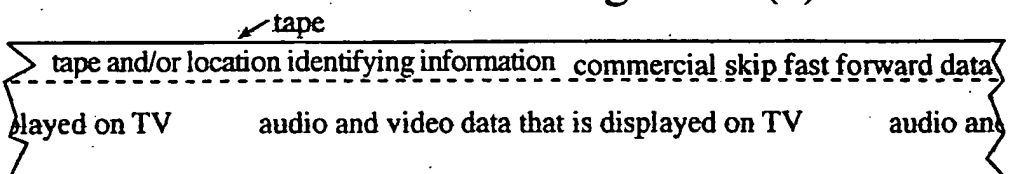


Figure 14(f)

Tape Format Check

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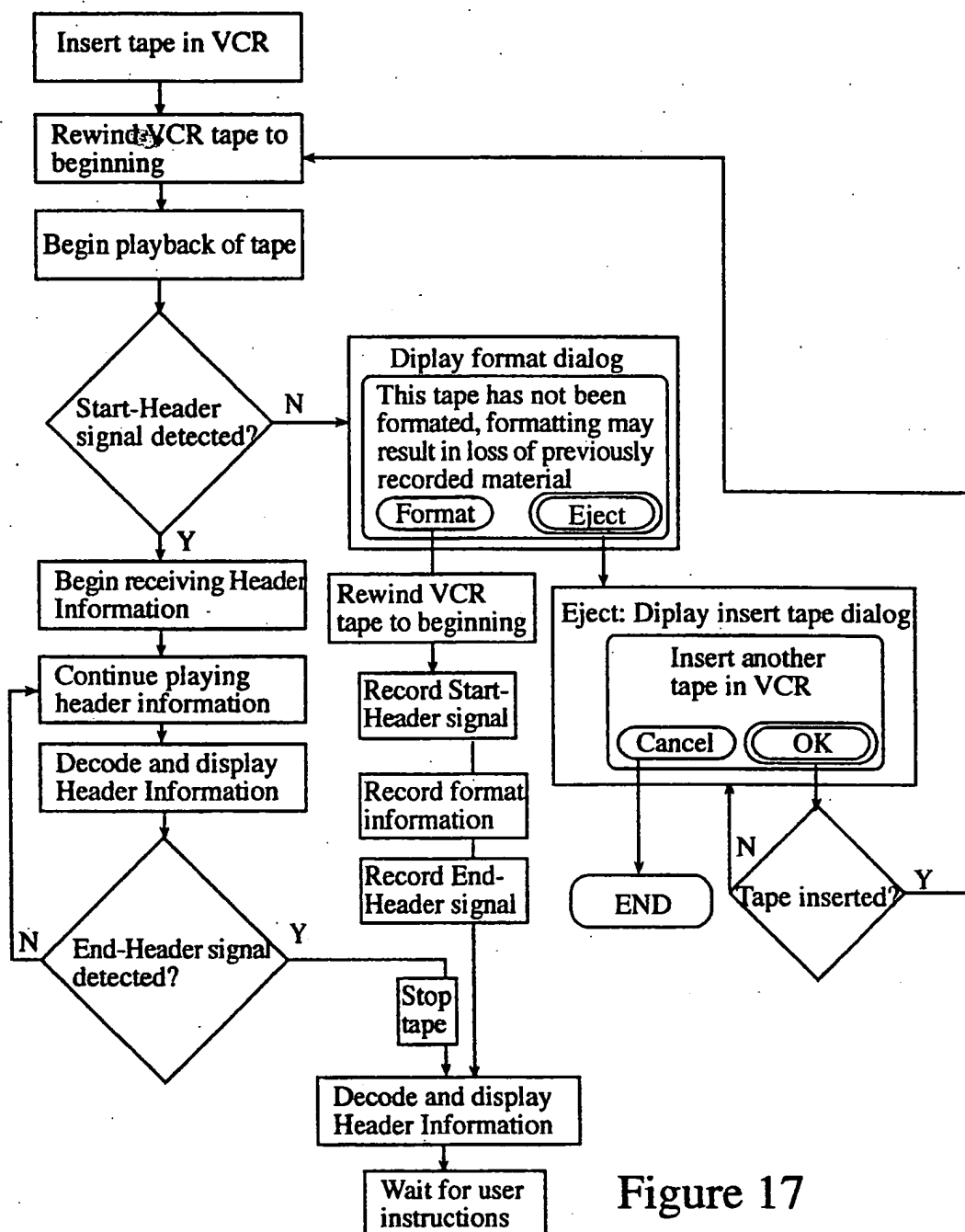


Figure 17

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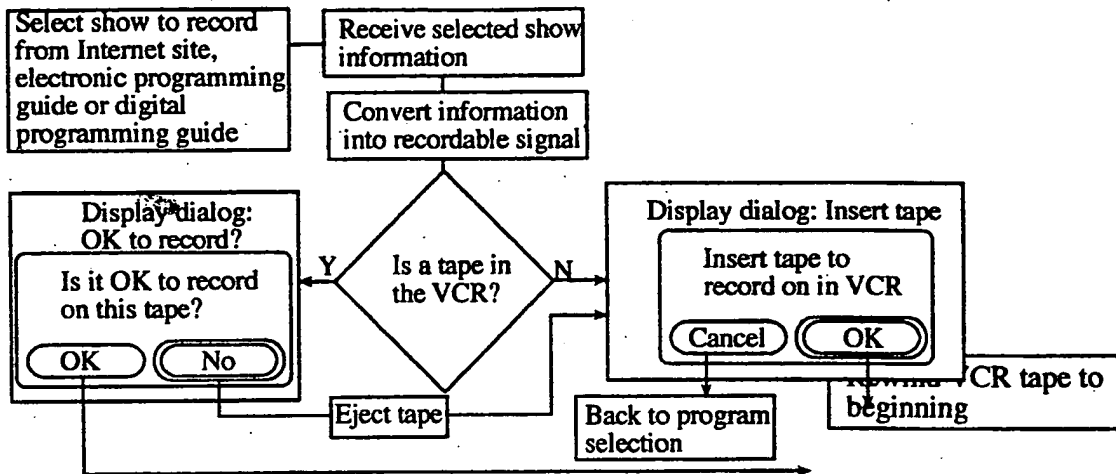
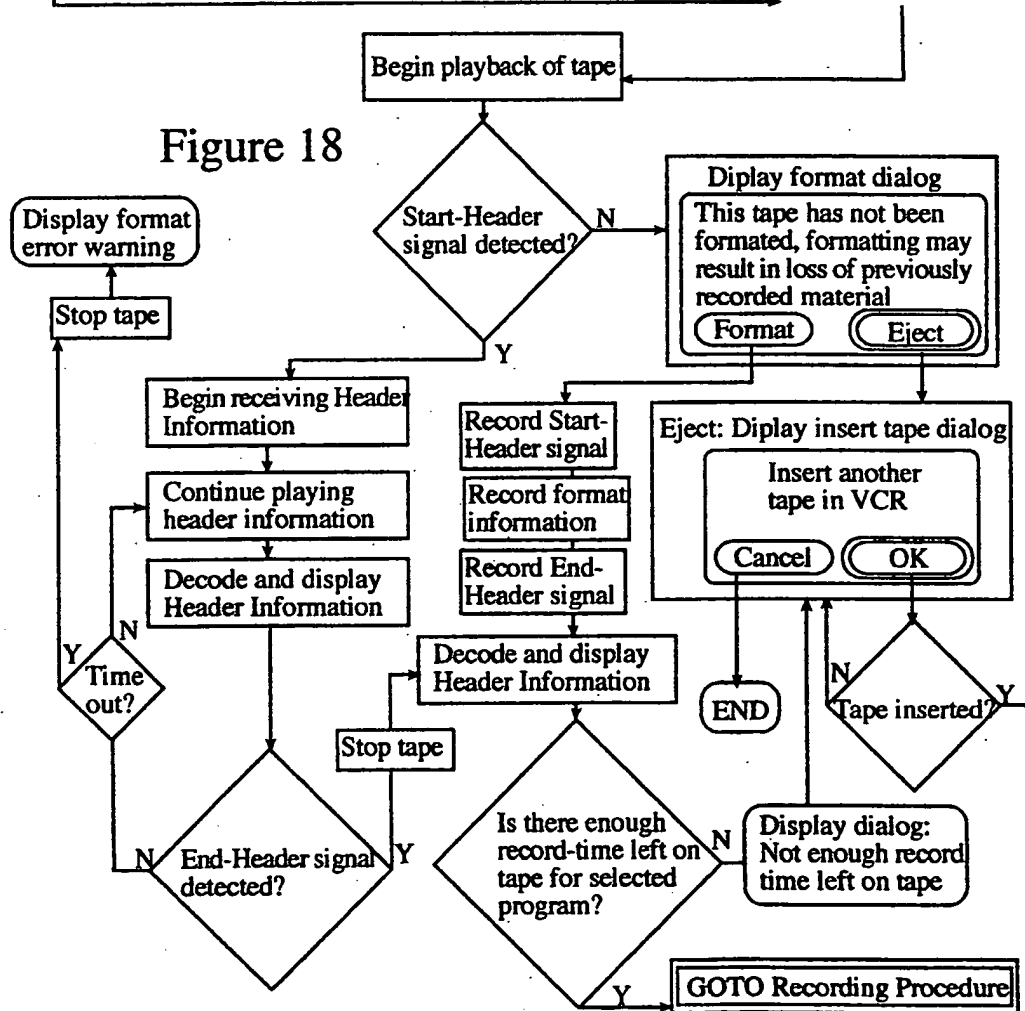
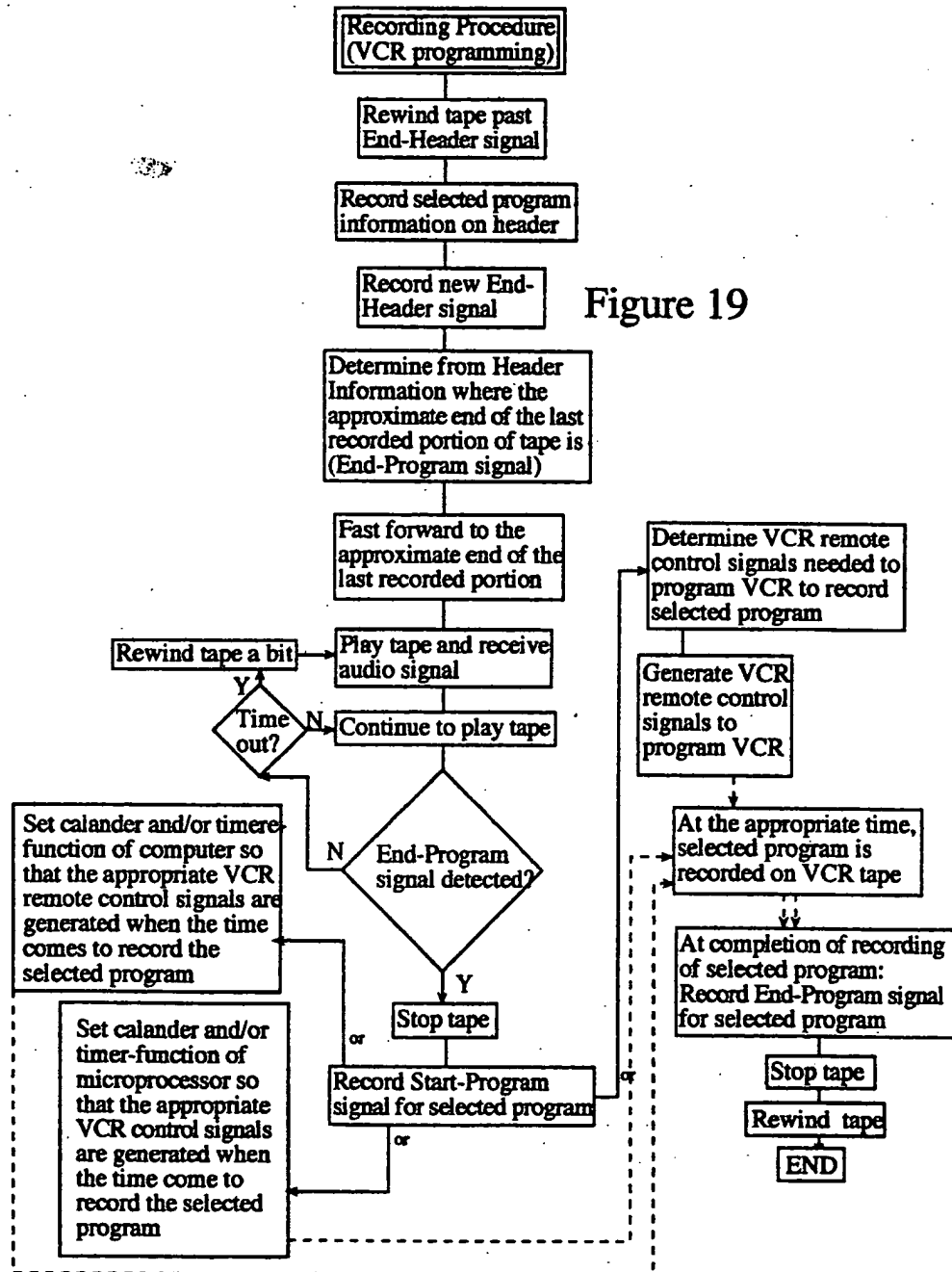


Figure 18



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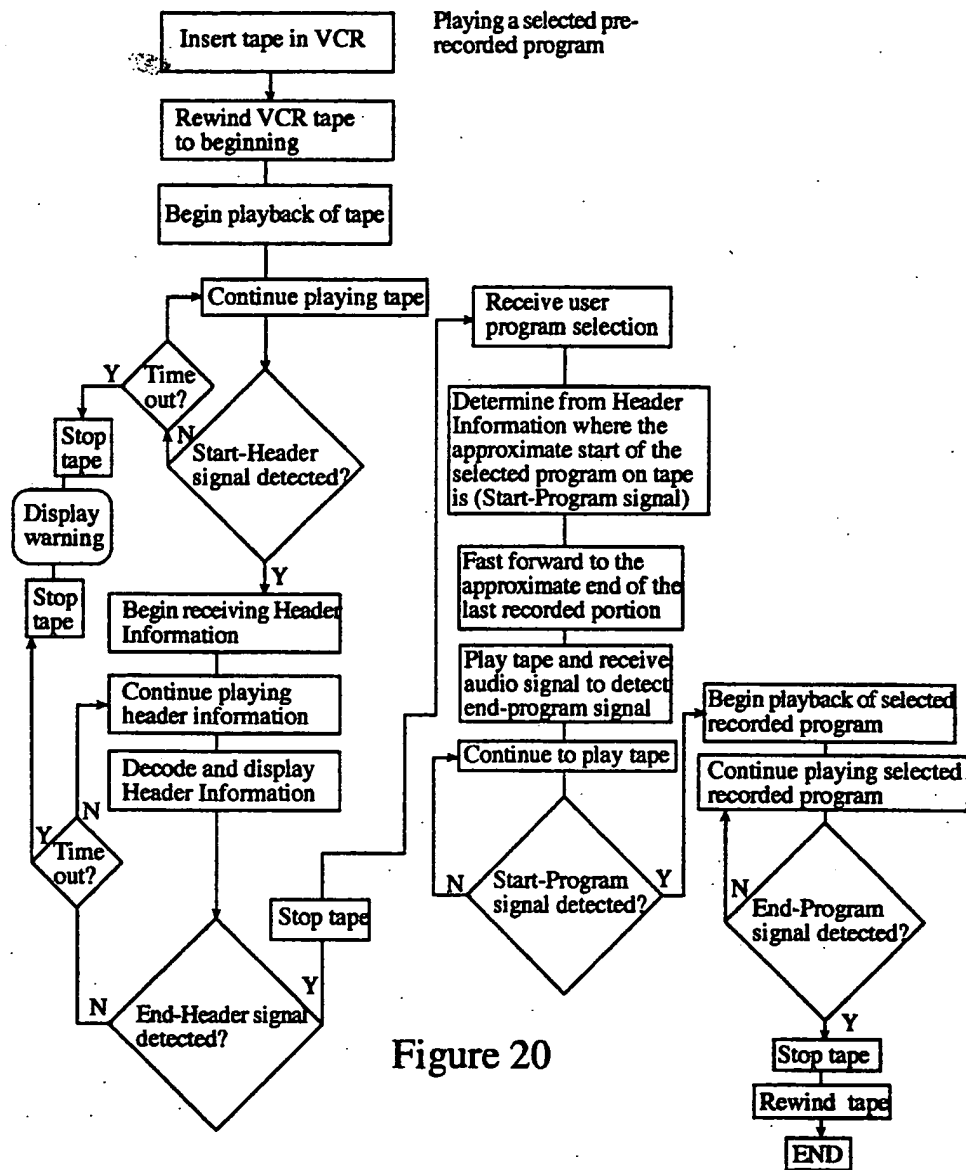


Figure 20

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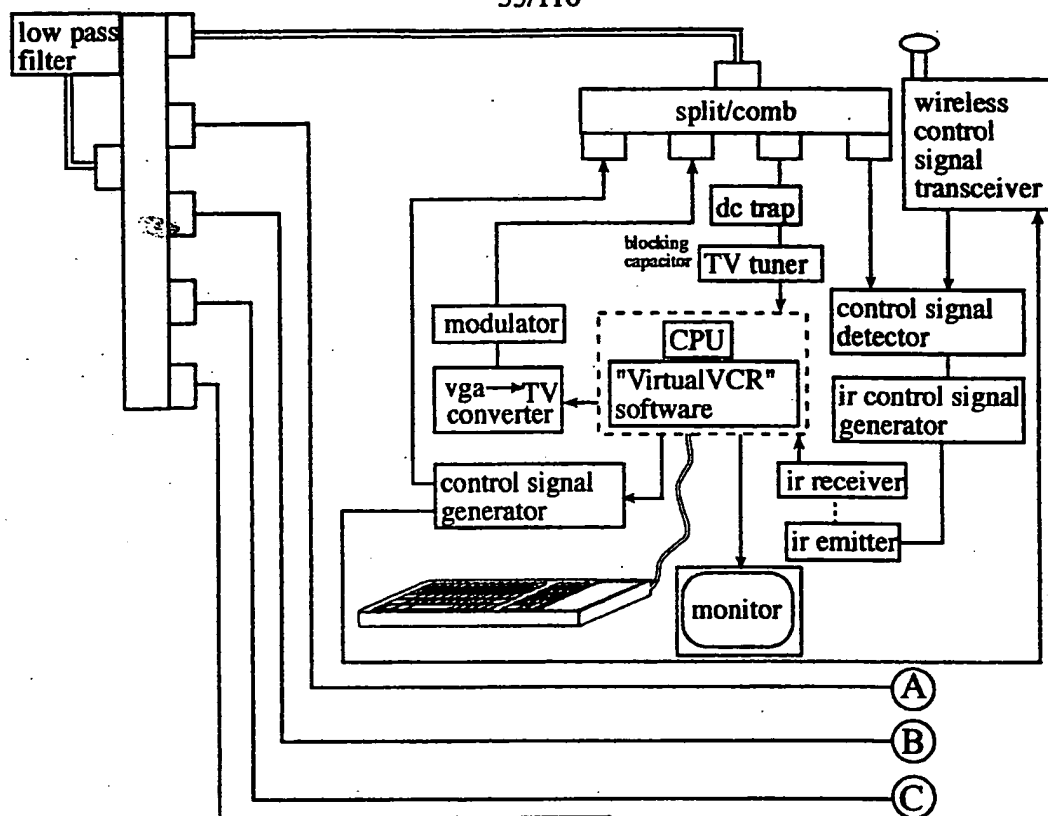
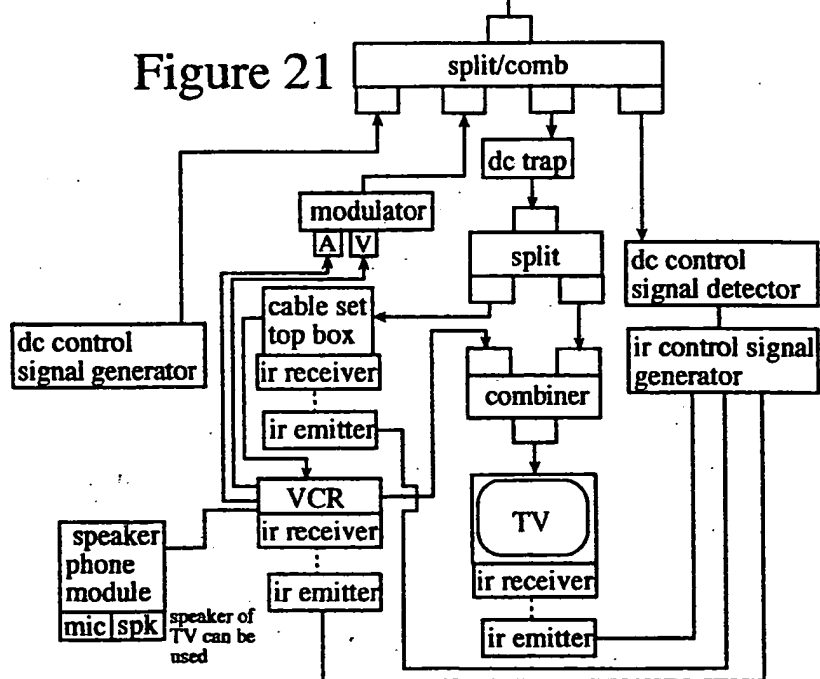
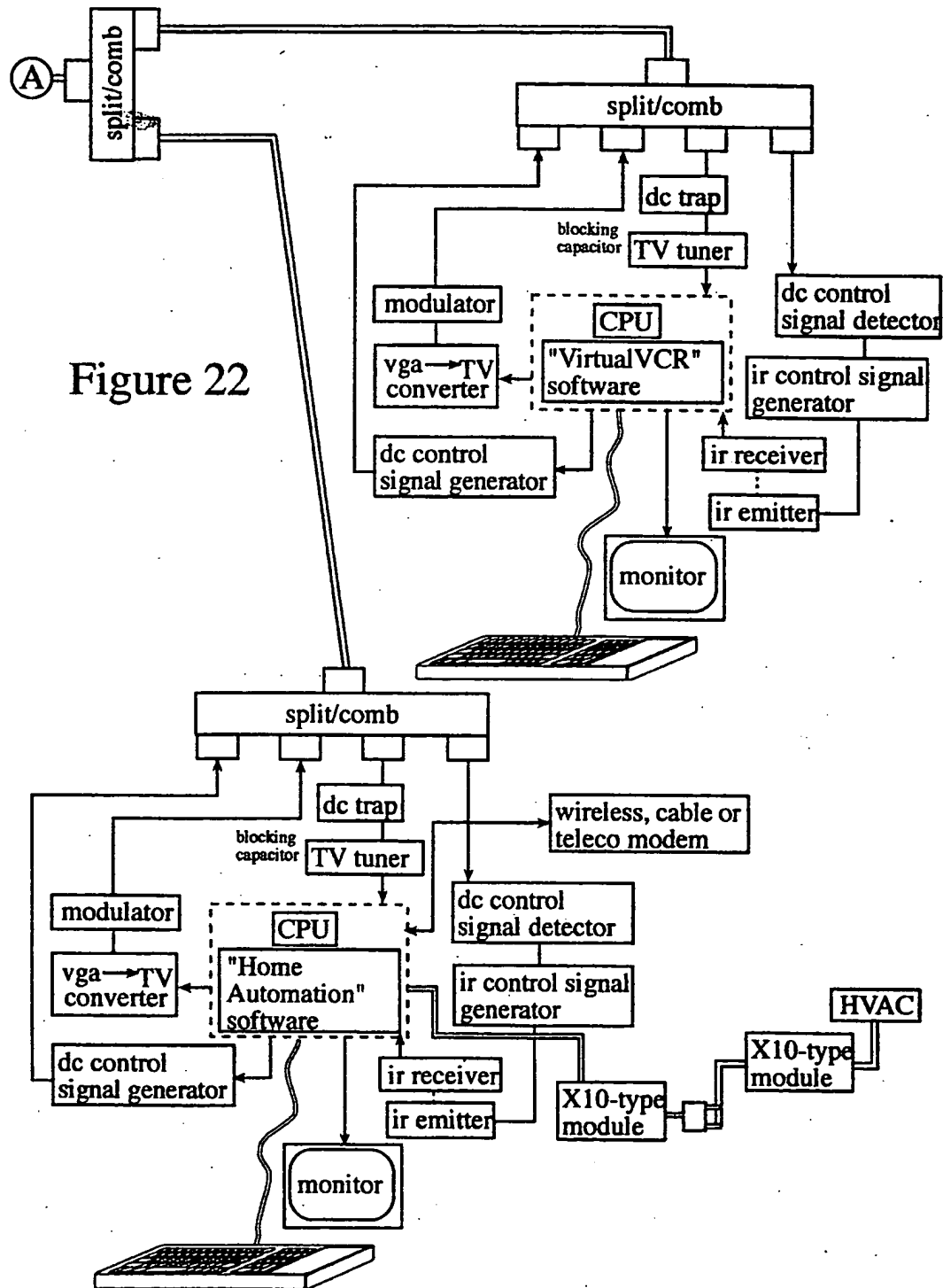


Figure 21



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Figure 22



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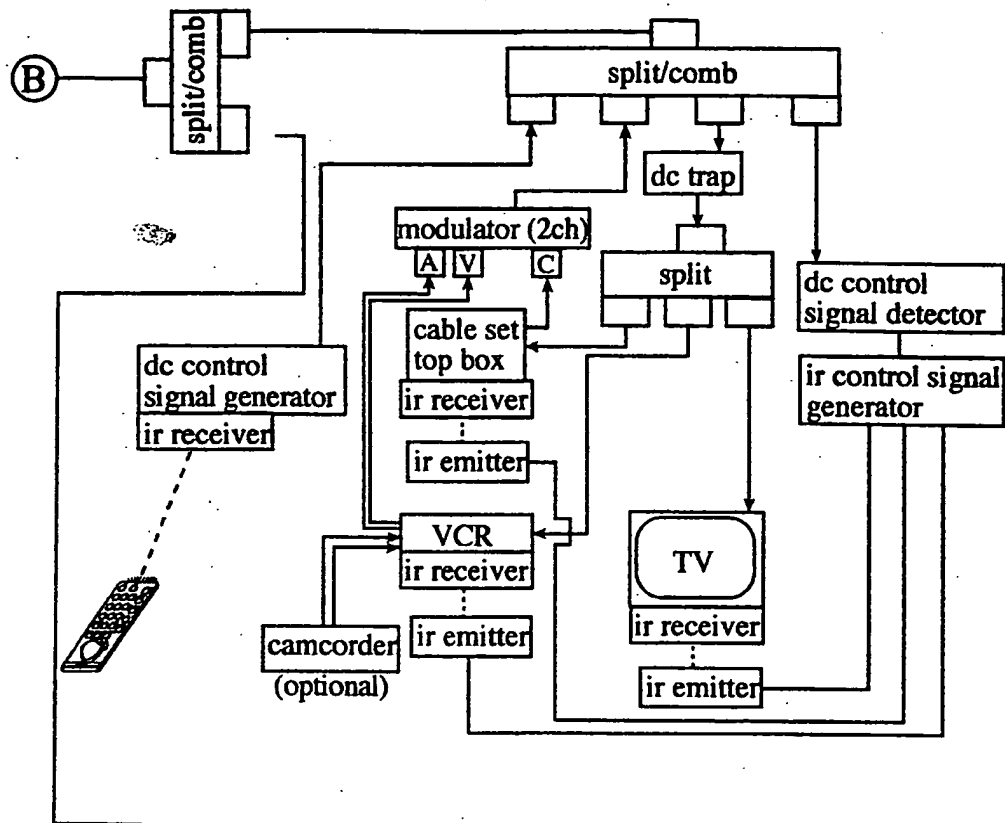
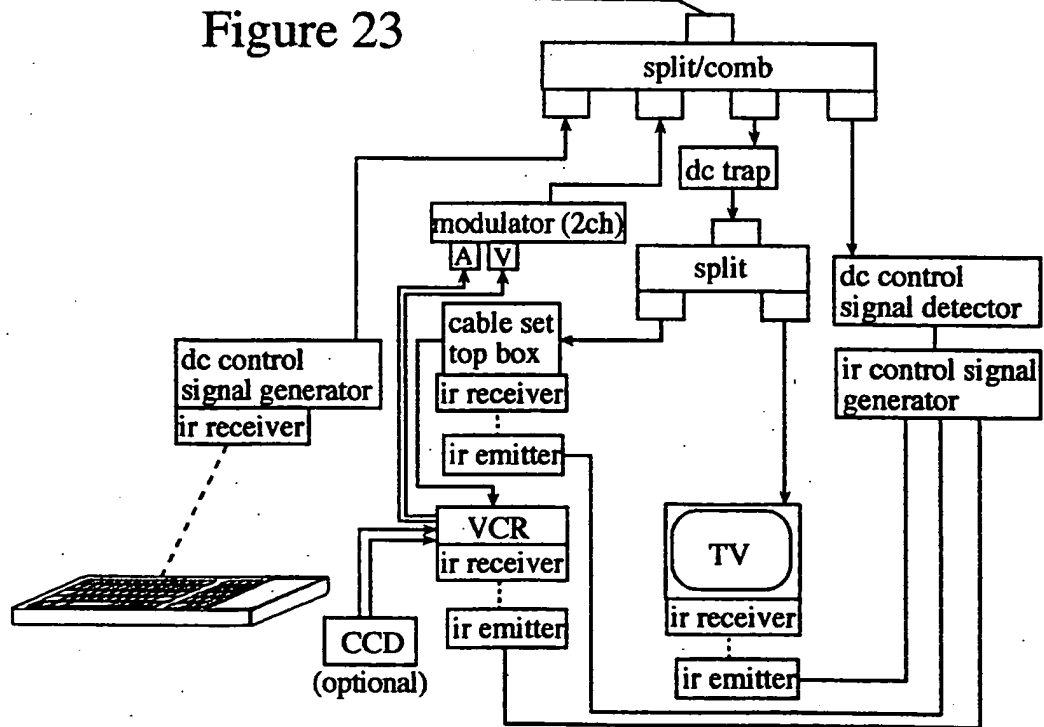


Figure 23



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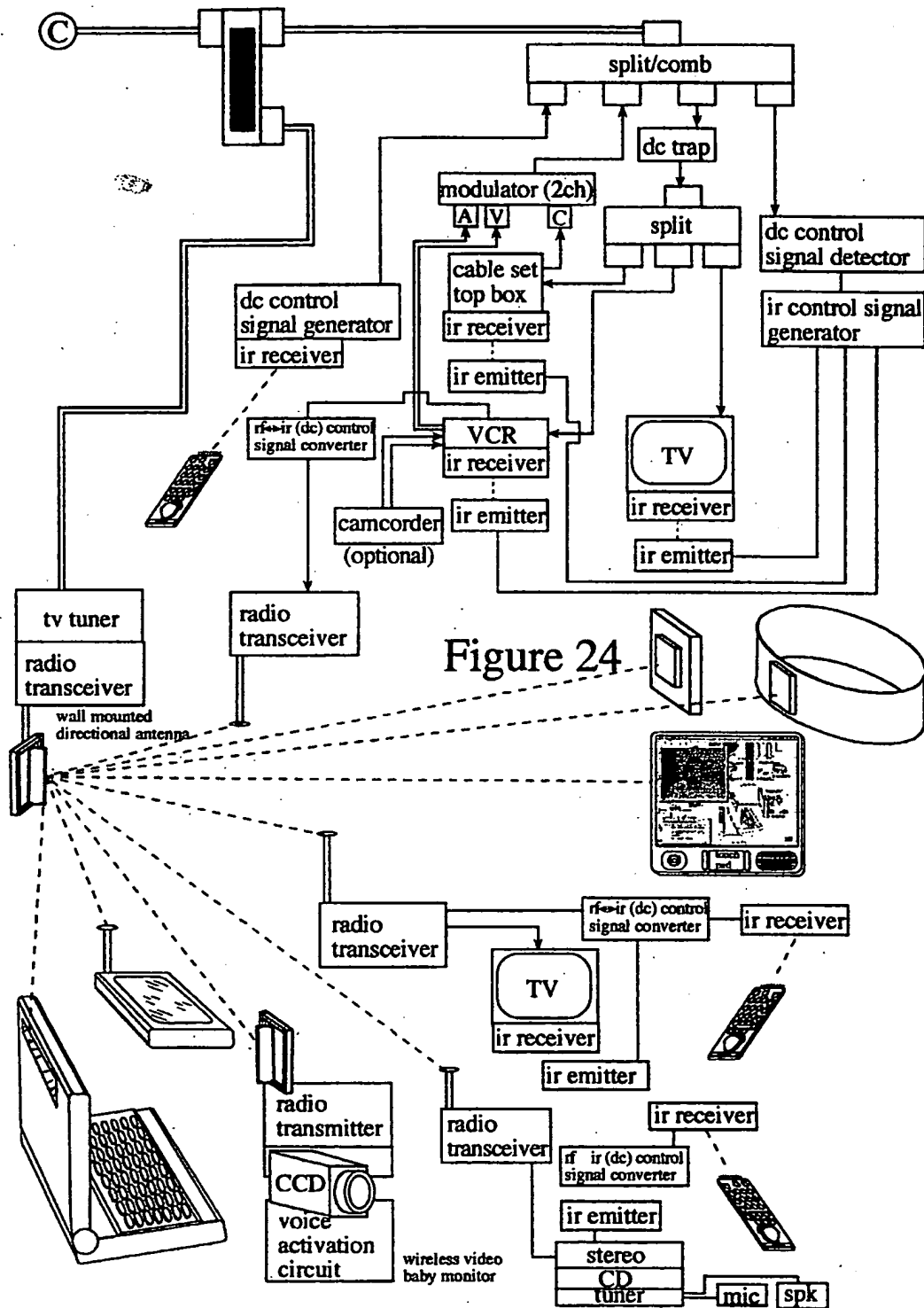
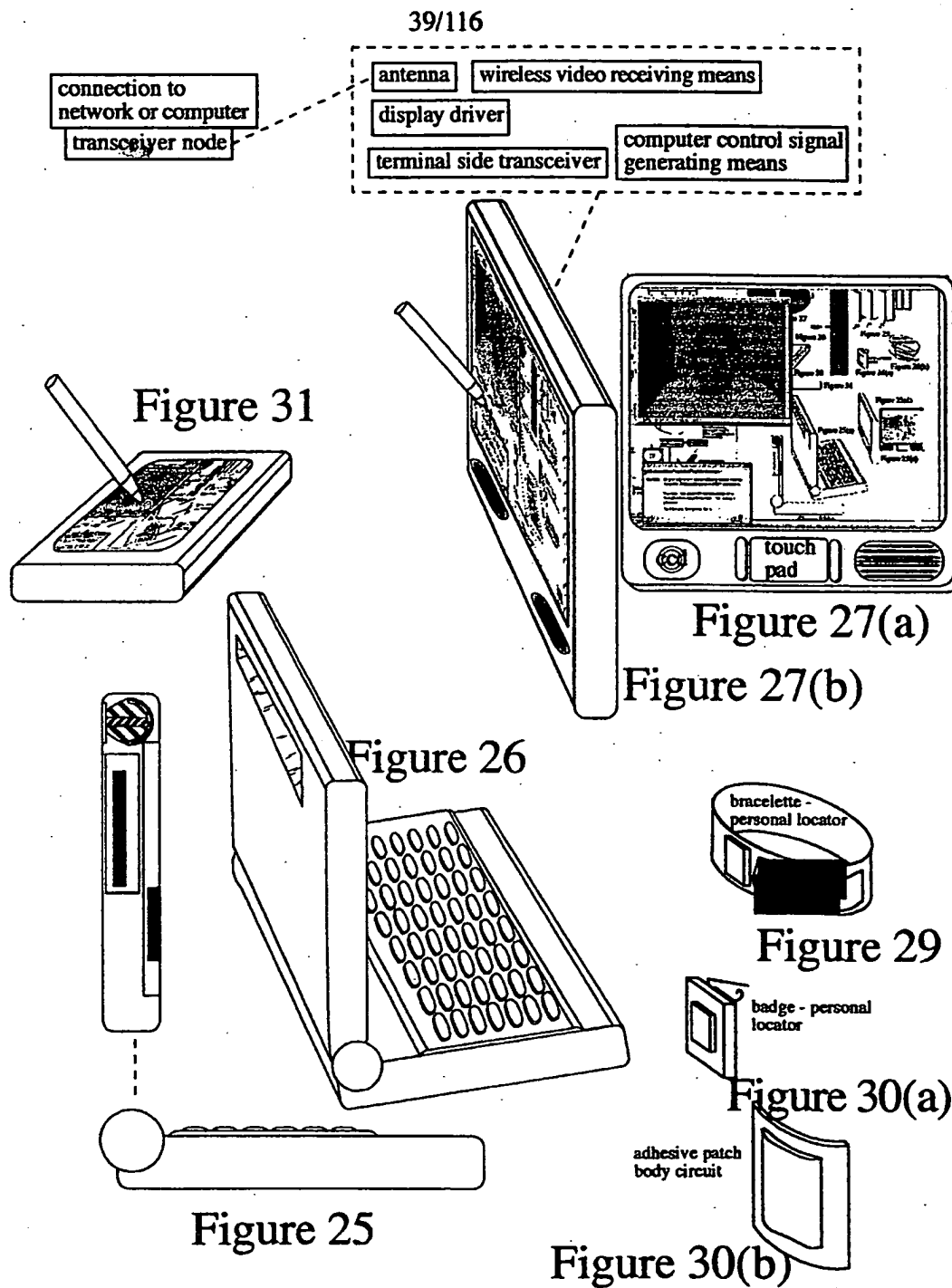


Figure 24



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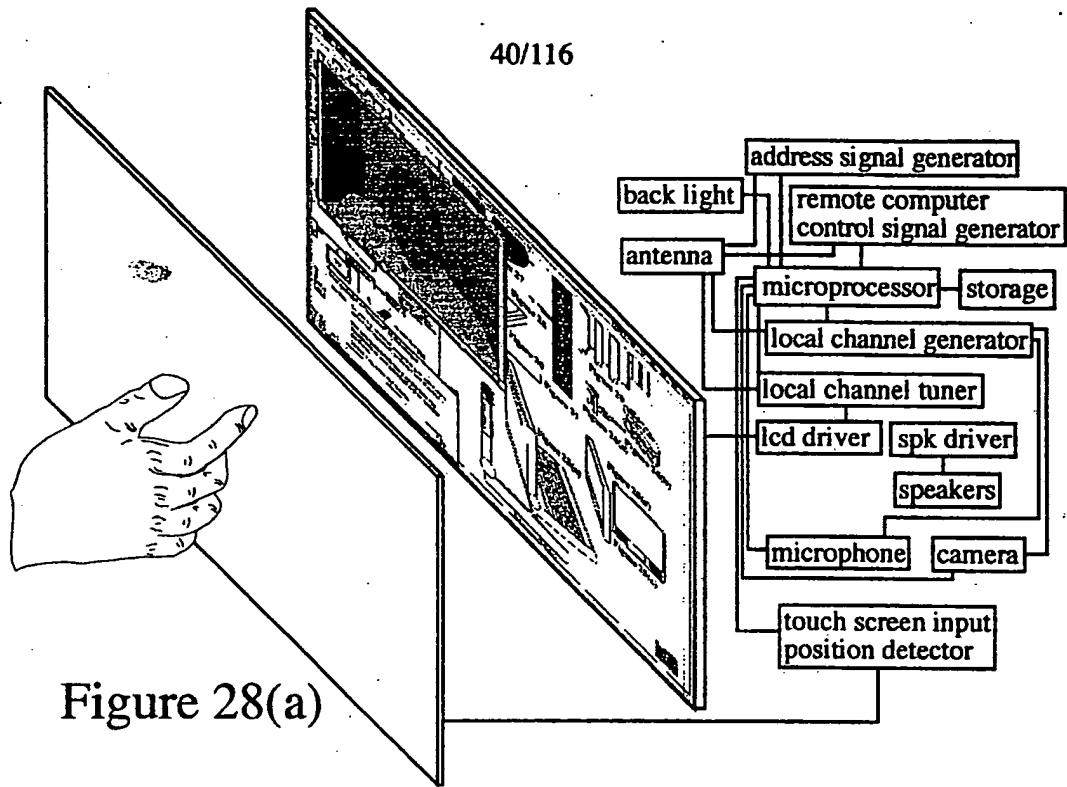


Figure 28(a)

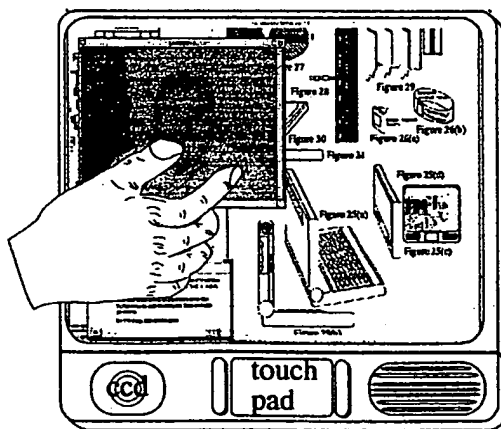


Figure 28(b)

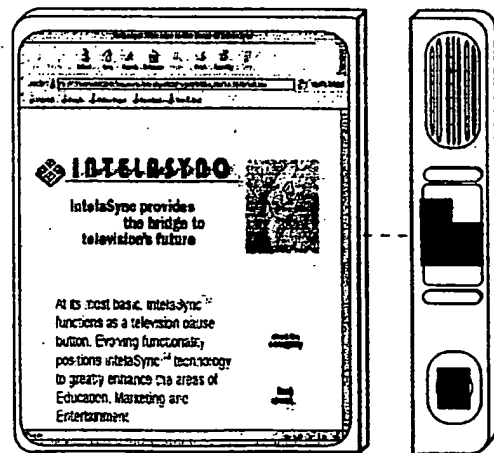


Figure 28(c)

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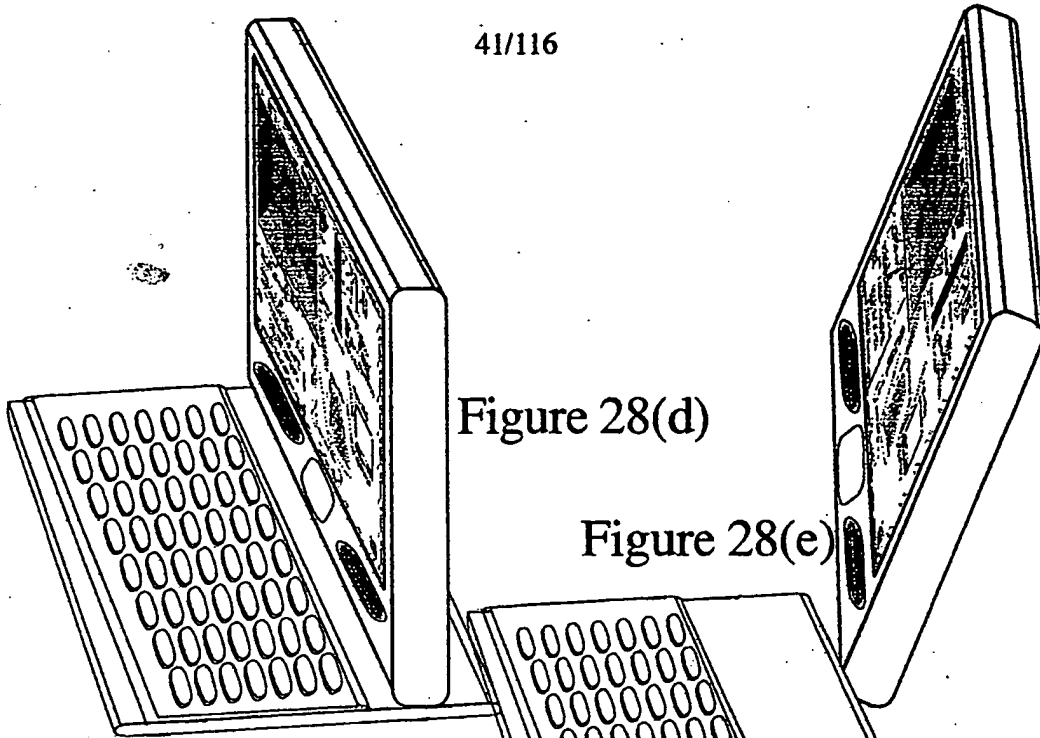


Figure 28(d)

Figure 28(e)

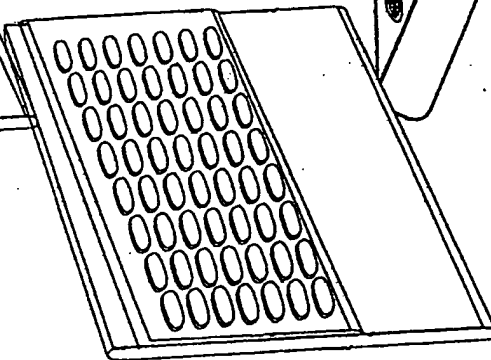


Figure 28(h)

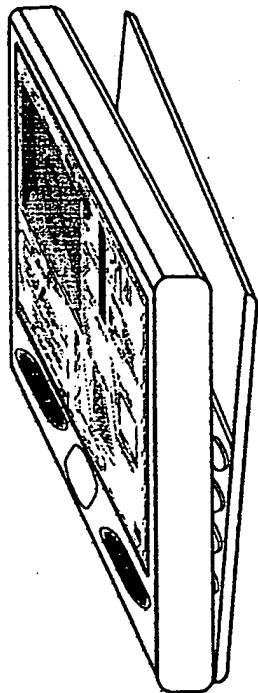


Figure 28(f)

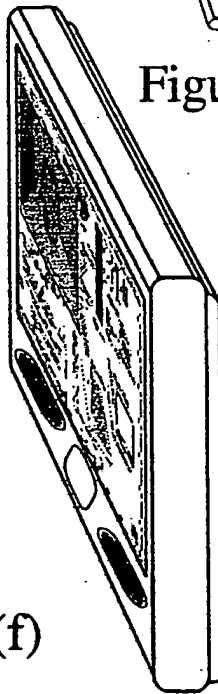
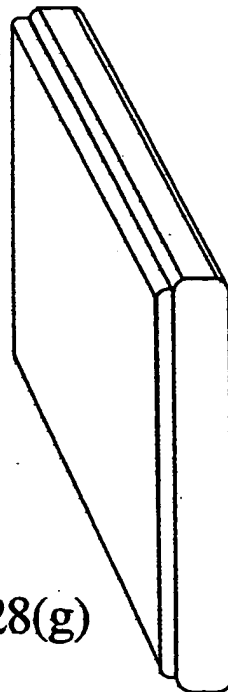


Figure 28(g)



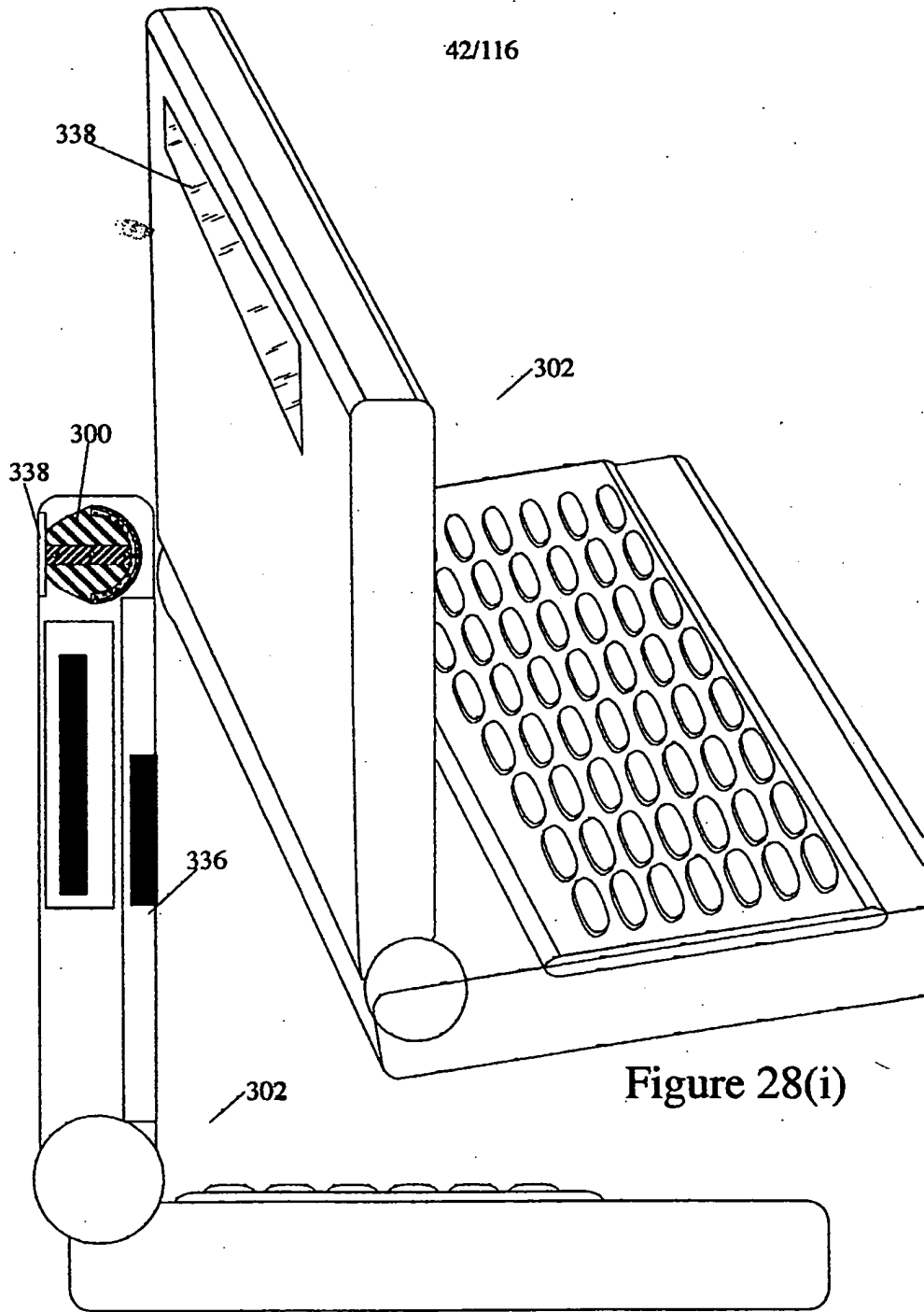


Figure 28(i)

Figure 28(j)

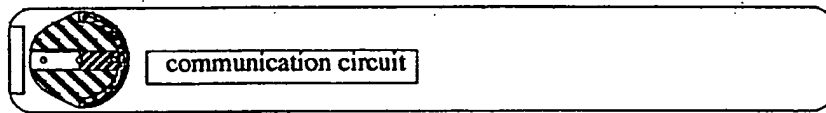
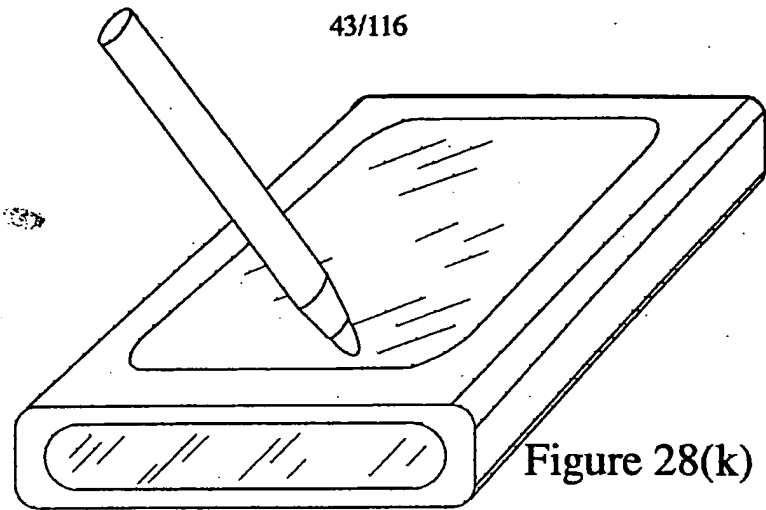


Figure 28(l)

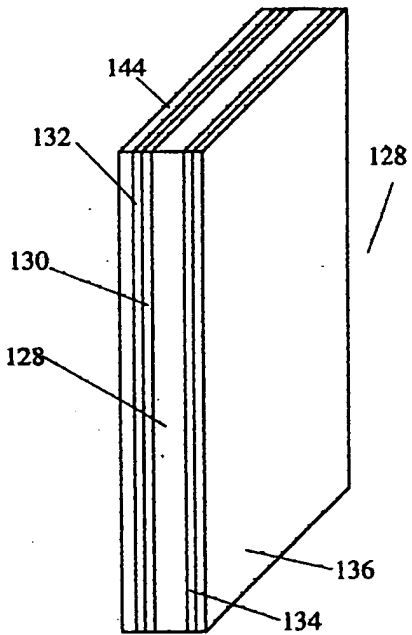


Figure 28(m)

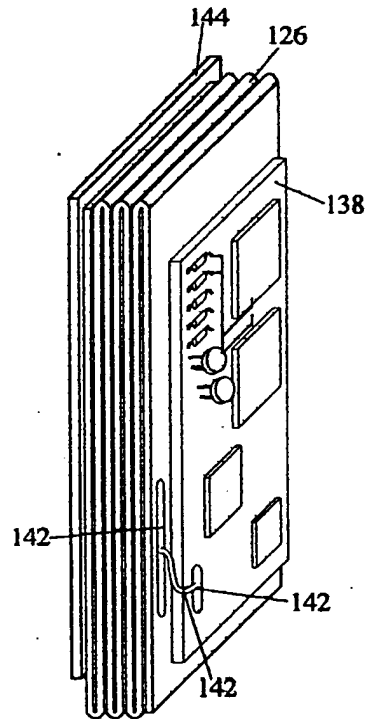
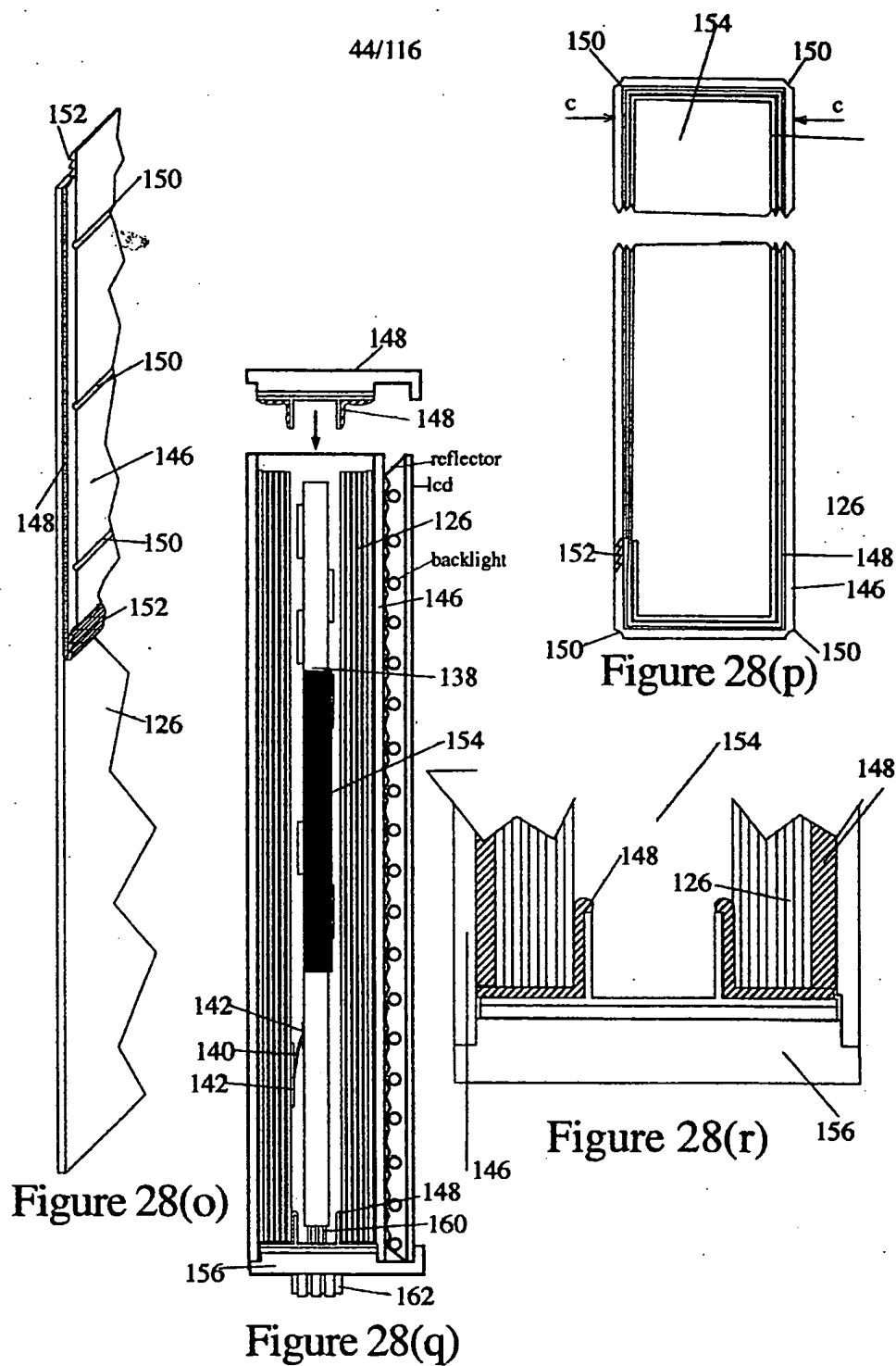


Figure 28(n)

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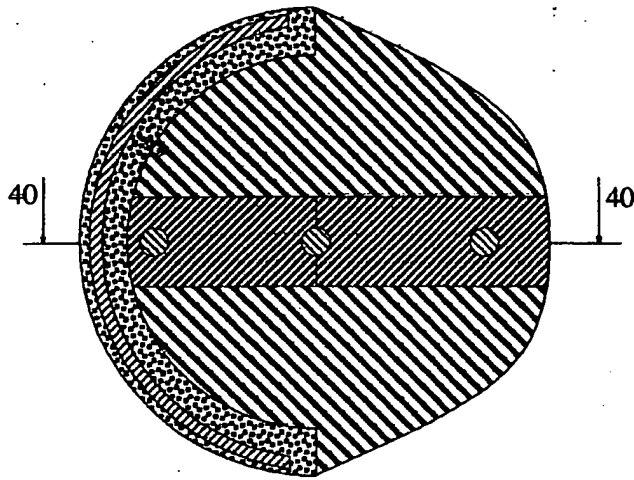
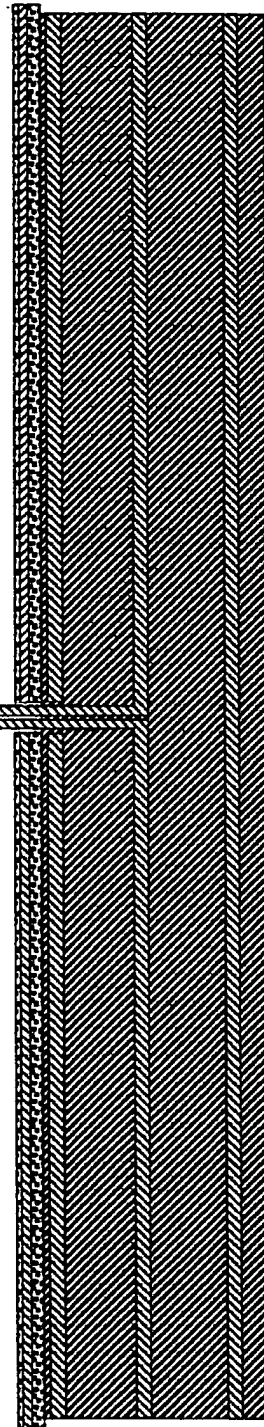


Figure 28(s)



Figure 28(t)



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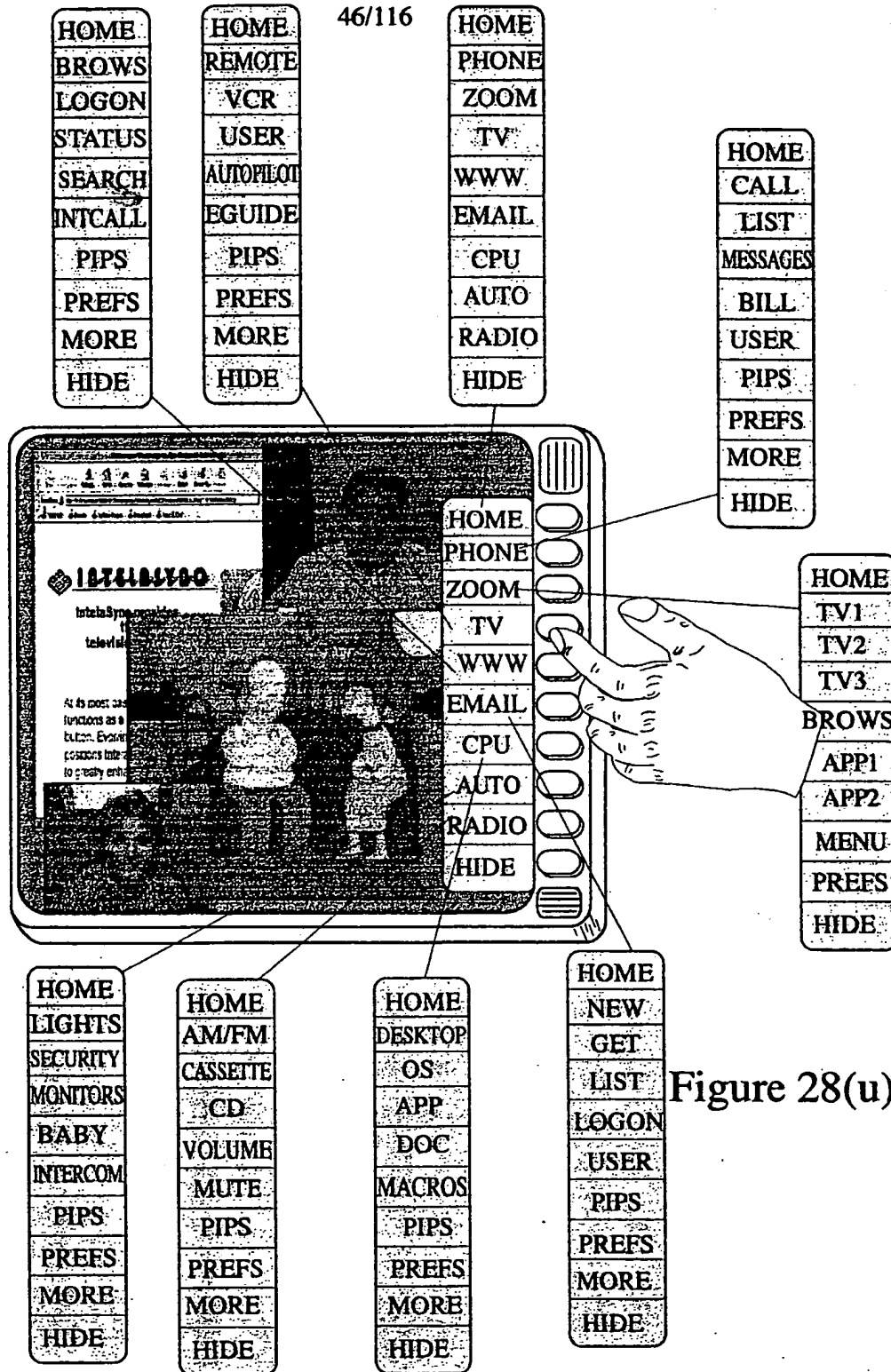


Figure 28(u)

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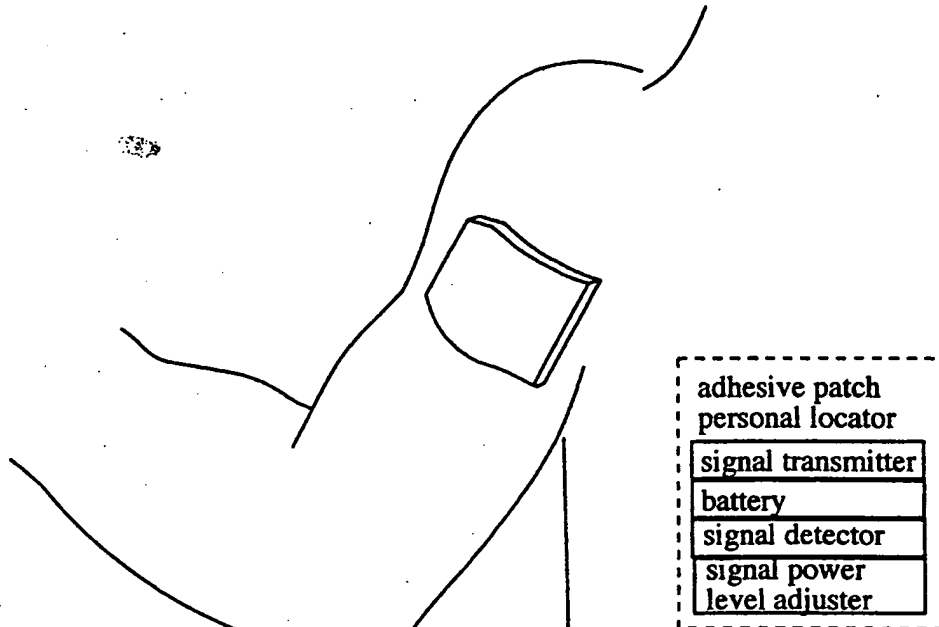


Figure 30(c)

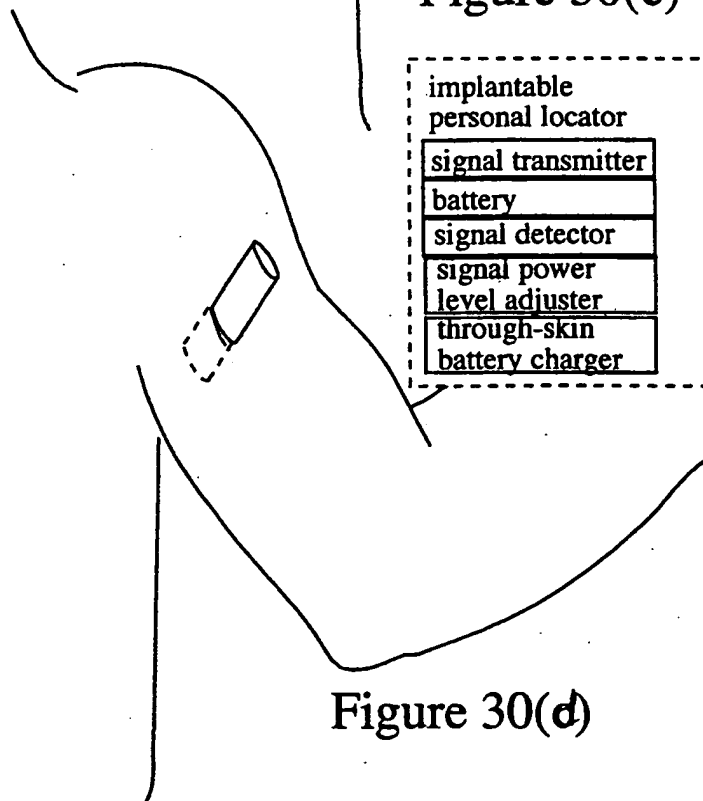
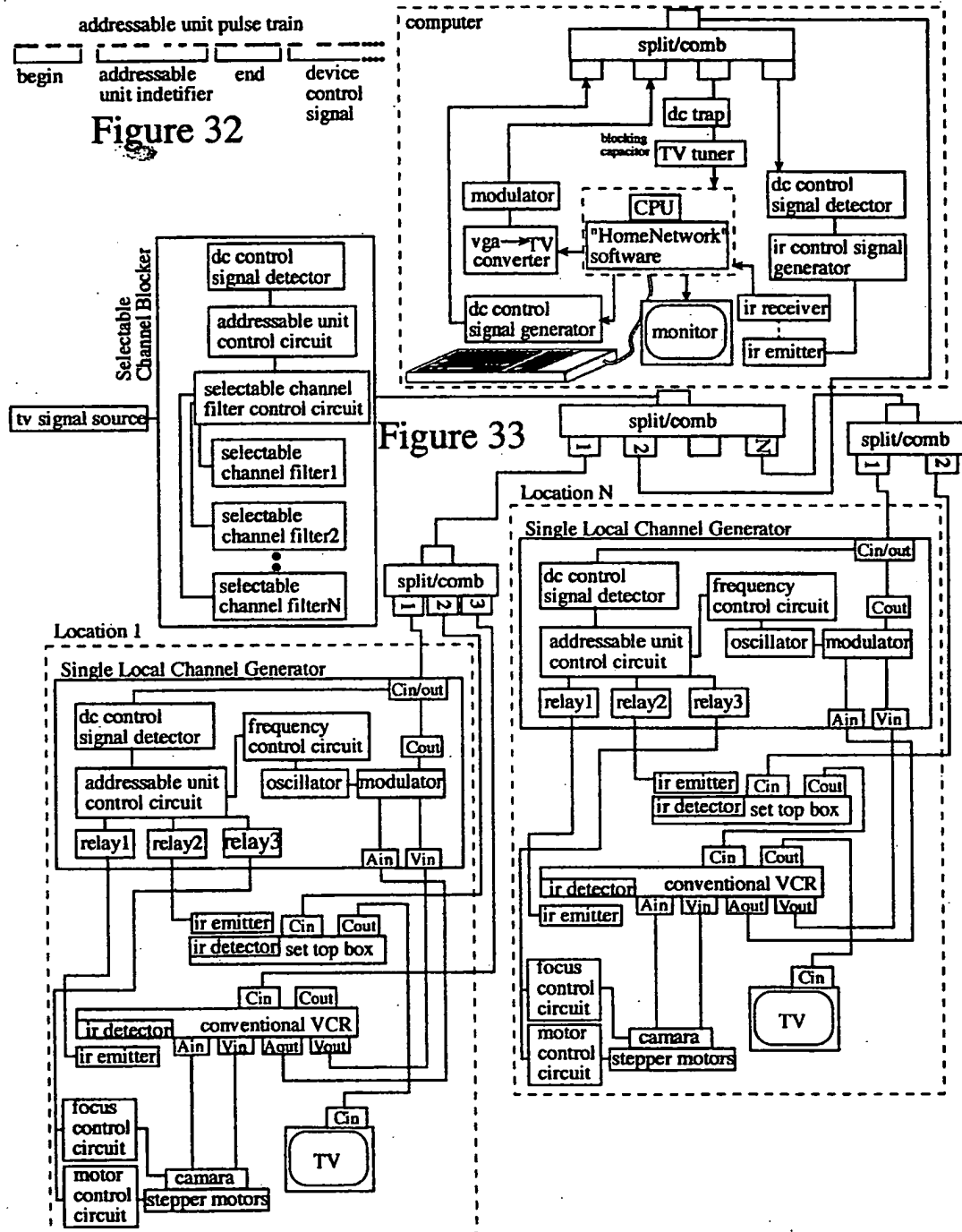
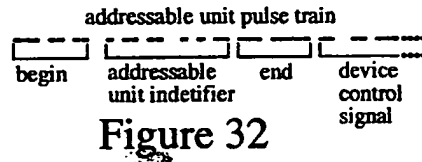


Figure 30(d)

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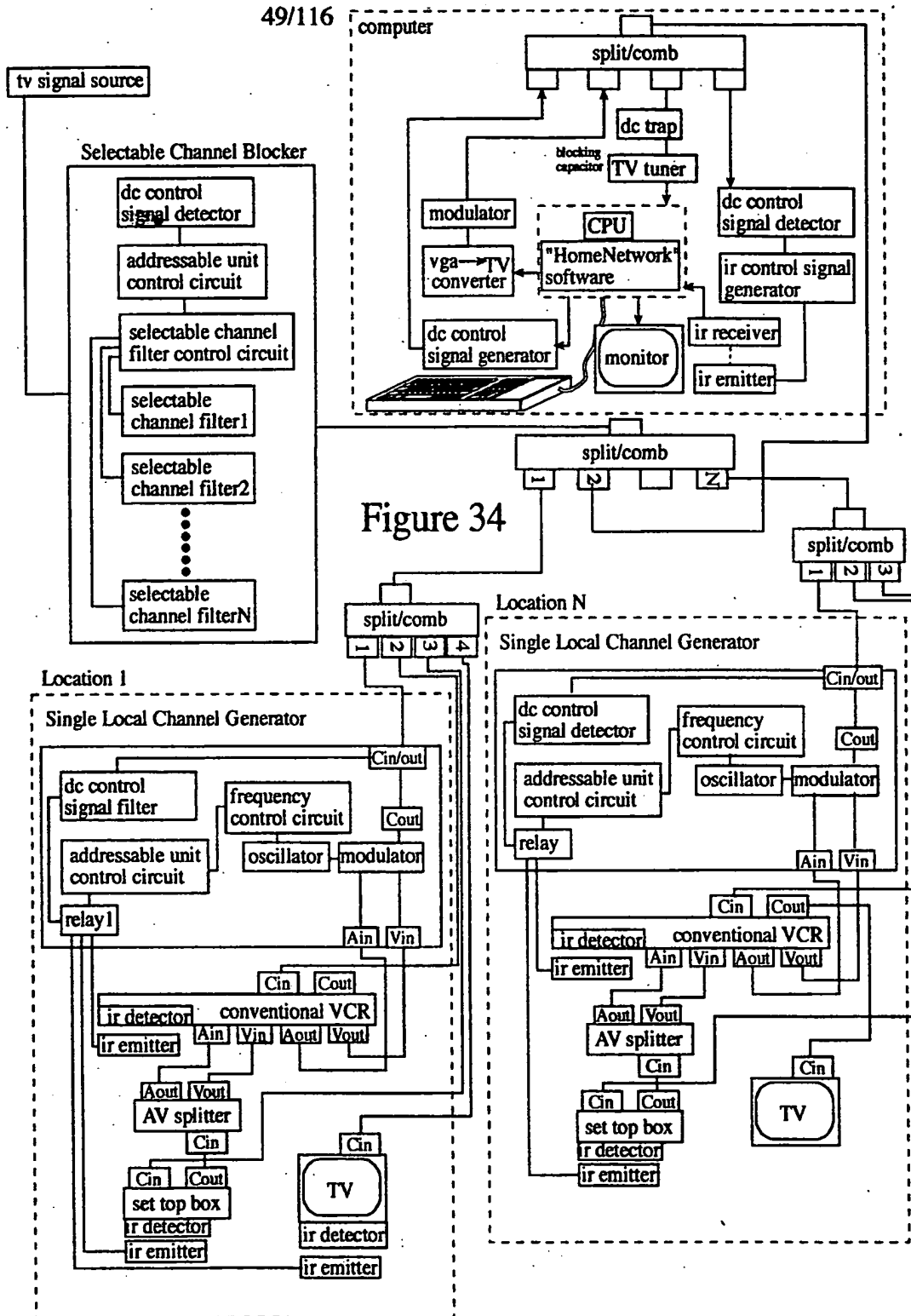
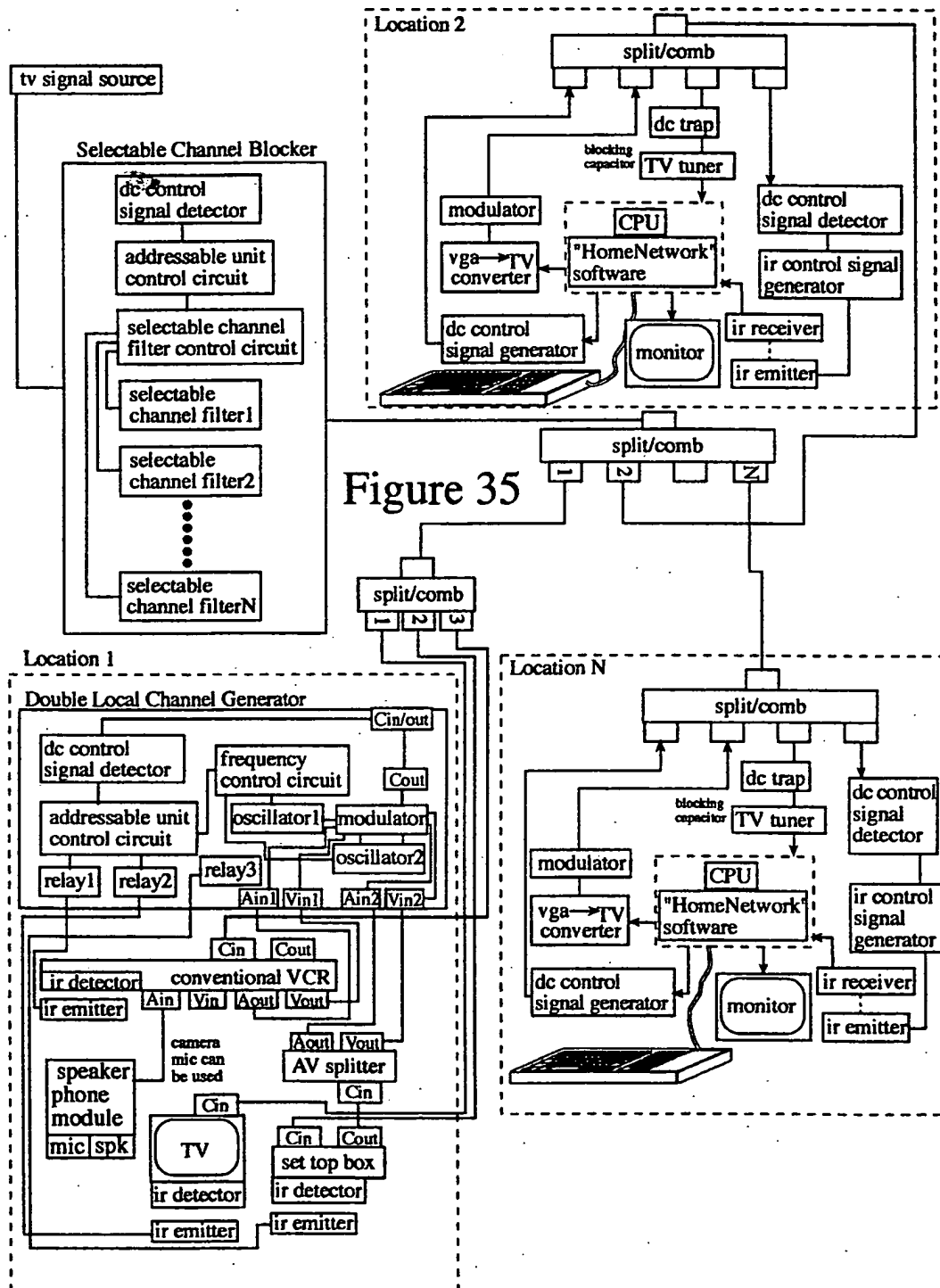
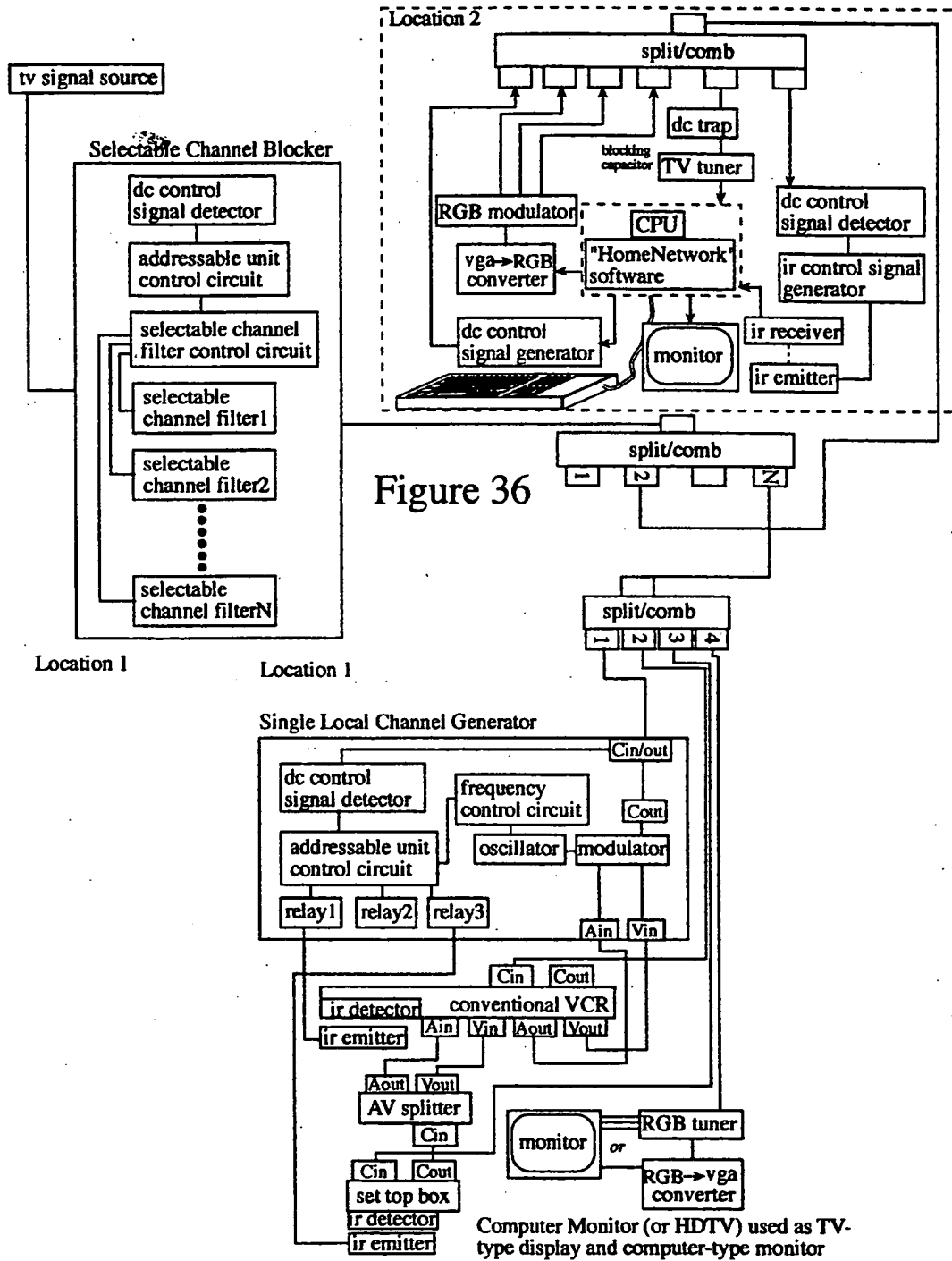


Figure 35

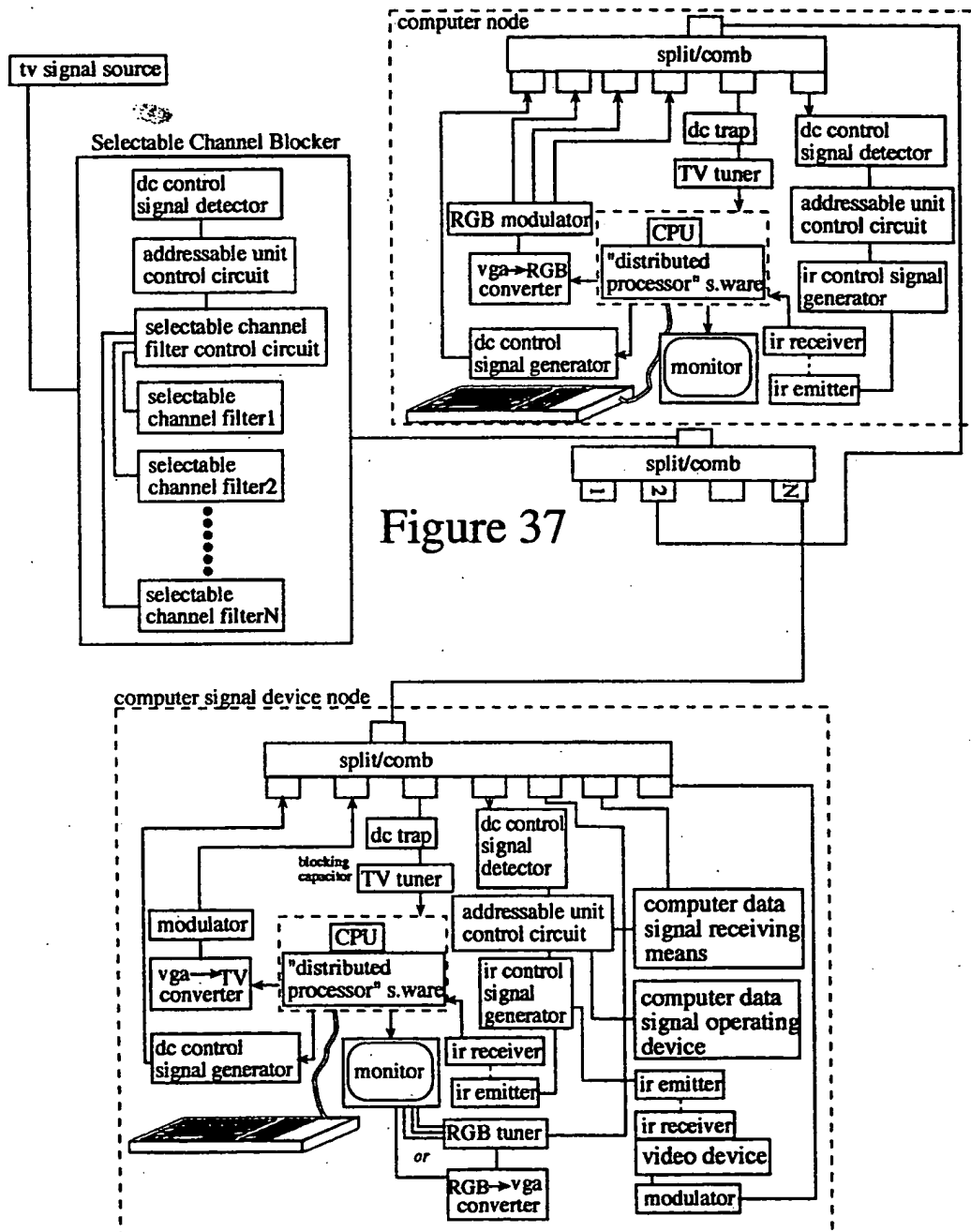


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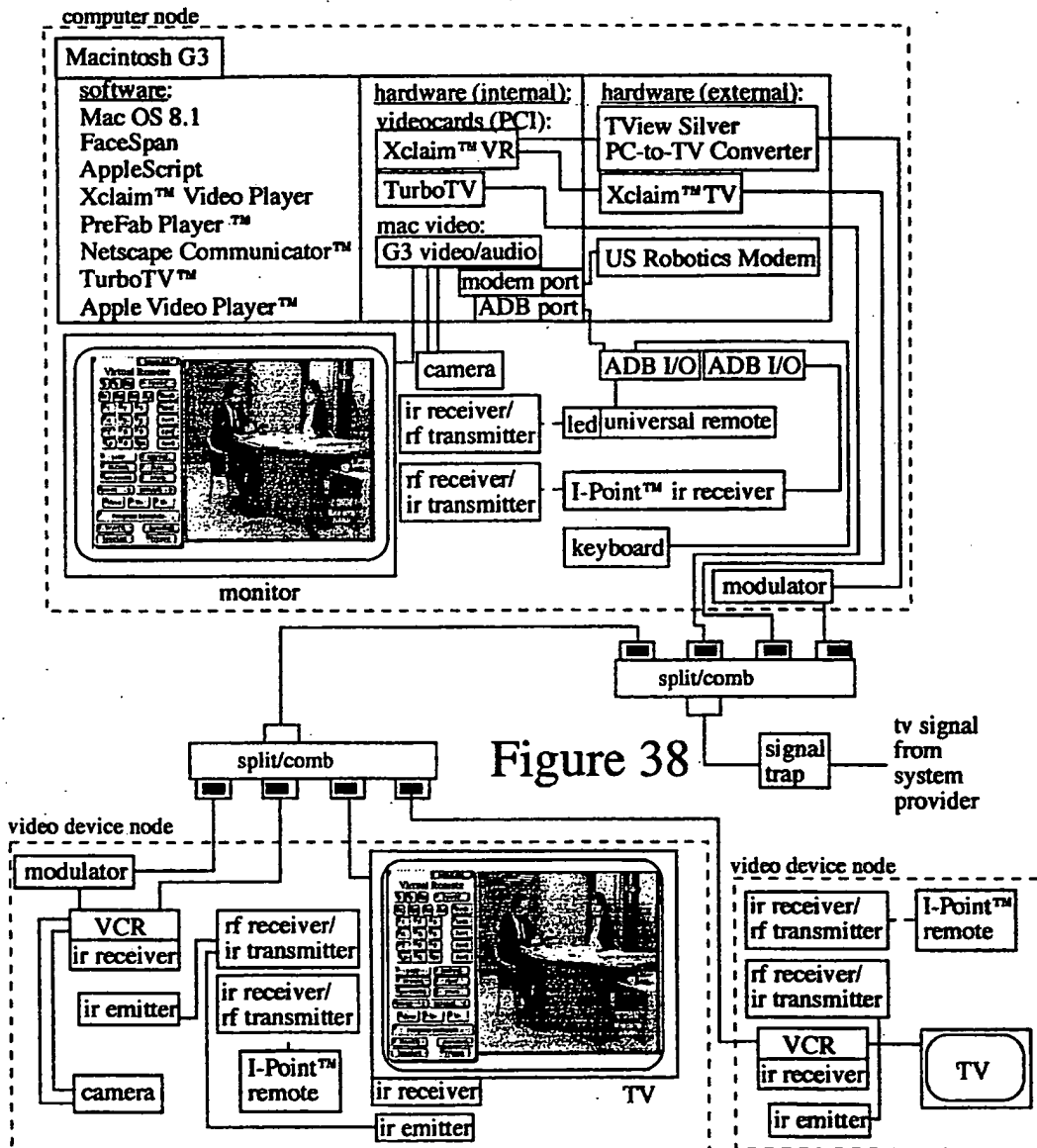


Computer Monitor (or HDTV) used as TV-type display and computer-type monitor

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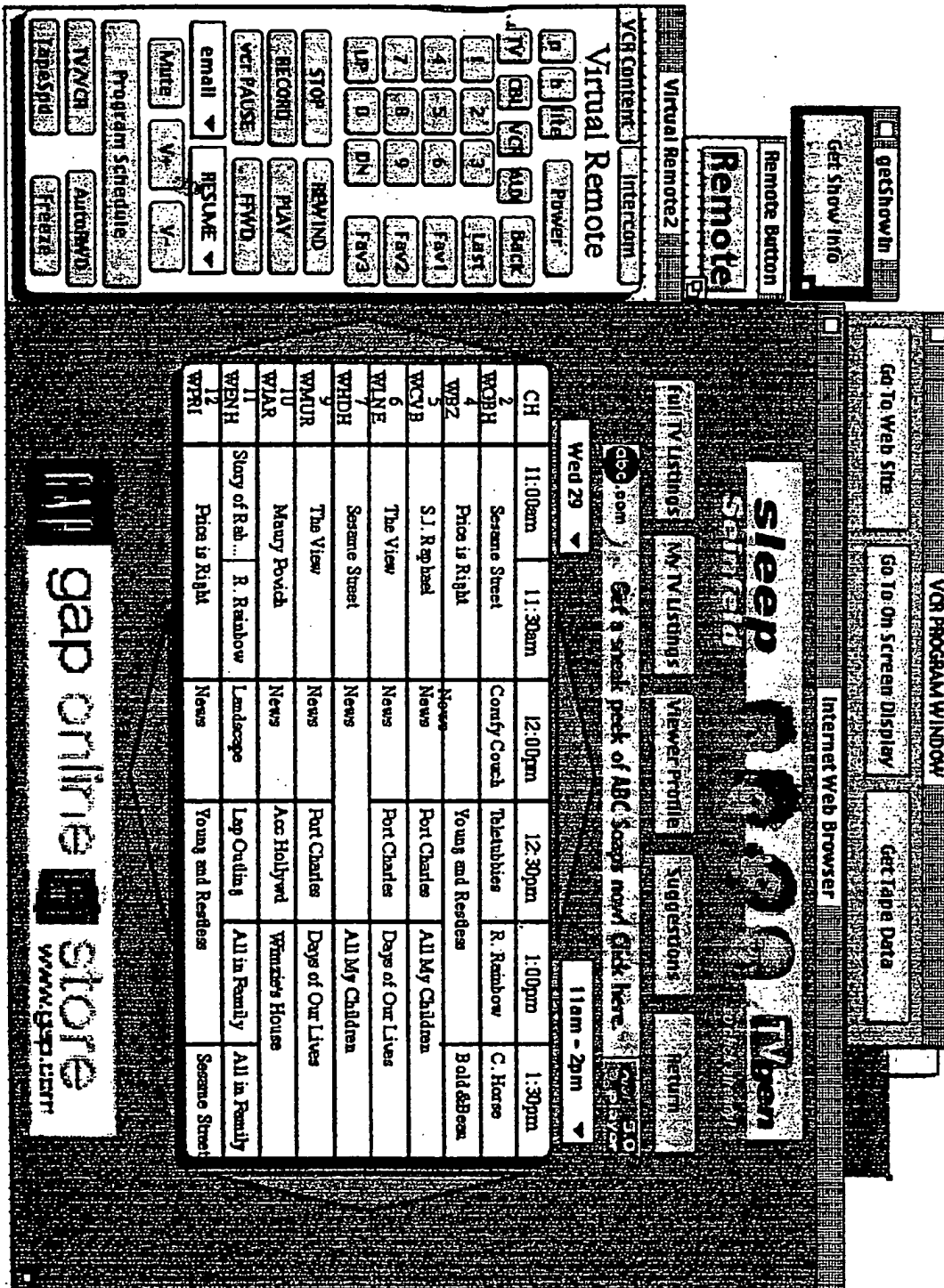


Figure 39

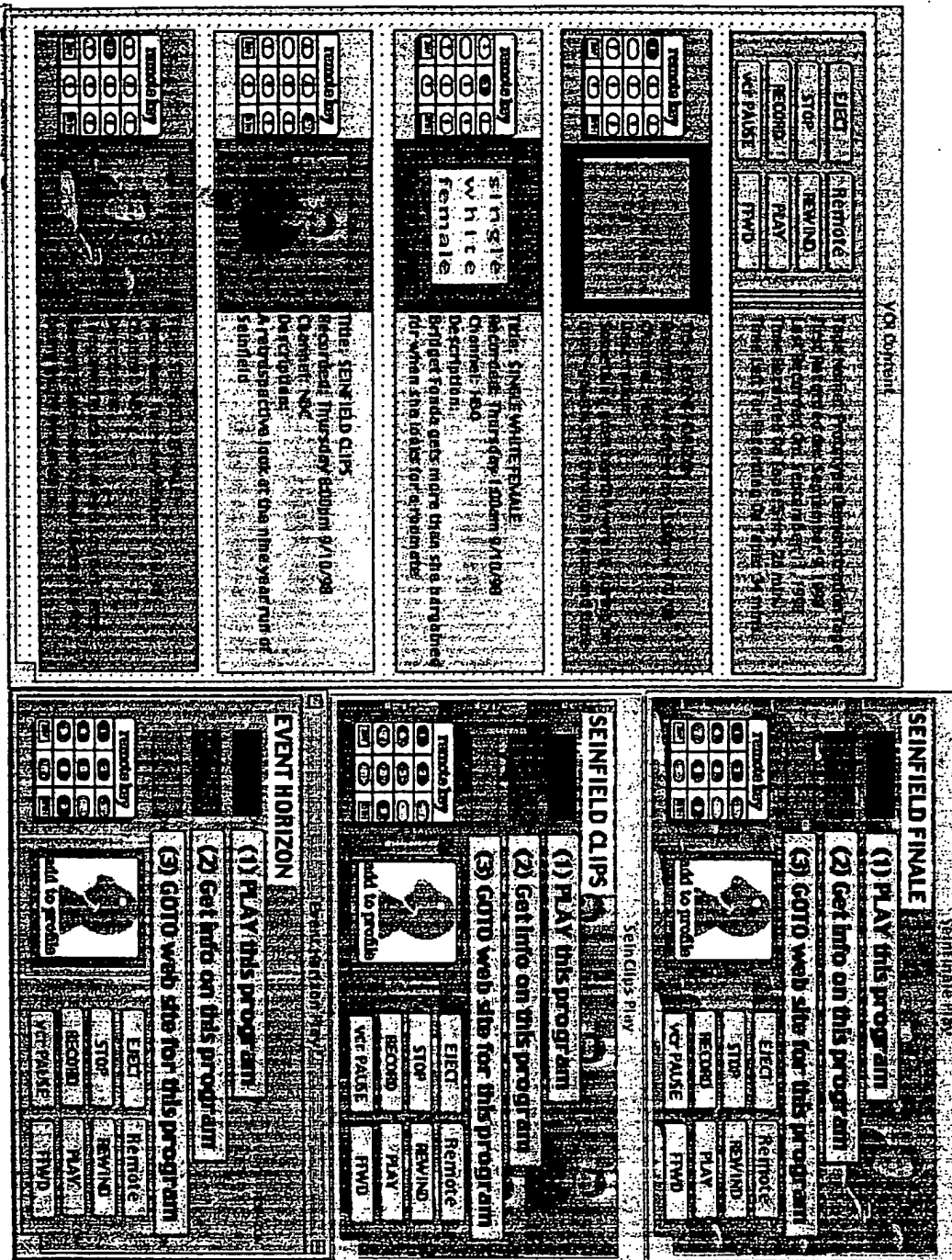


Figure 40

The diagram illustrates a parallel port interface for a wireless input device, divided into two main functional blocks: 'ir remote control signal playback' and 'ir remote control signal capture'.

ir remote control signal playback: This section is powered by a +5V supply. It includes a de-coupling capacitor (cap) connected to the +5V line. The circuit features an NE555 timer configured as a pulse generator. The timer's output (pin 5) is connected to a 1k resistor and a 50k variable resistor (var), which then connects to a signal indicator LED (530). The timer's output is also connected to a 470pF capacitor and a 150 resistor. The timer's output is connected to the data 0 line of the parallel port. The timer's output is also connected to a 100 resistor and a 100nF capacitor, which then connects to a 2N222 transistor. The transistor's emitter is connected to ground, and its collector is connected to the data 1 line of the parallel port.

ir remote control signal capture: This section is also powered by a +5V supply. It includes a power indicator LED (530) connected to the +5V line. The circuit features an NE555 timer configured as a pulse detector. The timer's output (pin 5) is connected to a 1k resistor and a 50k variable resistor (var), which then connects to a power indicator LED (530). The timer's output is also connected to a 470pF capacitor and a 150 resistor. The timer's output is connected to the data 0 line of the parallel port. The timer's output is also connected to a 100 resistor and a 100nF capacitor, which then connects to a 2N222 transistor. The transistor's emitter is connected to ground, and its collector is connected to the data 1 line of the parallel port. The timer's output is also connected to a 100 resistor and a 100nF capacitor, which then connects to a 2N222 transistor. The transistor's emitter is connected to ground, and its collector is connected to the data 1 line of the parallel port.

Figure 41(a)

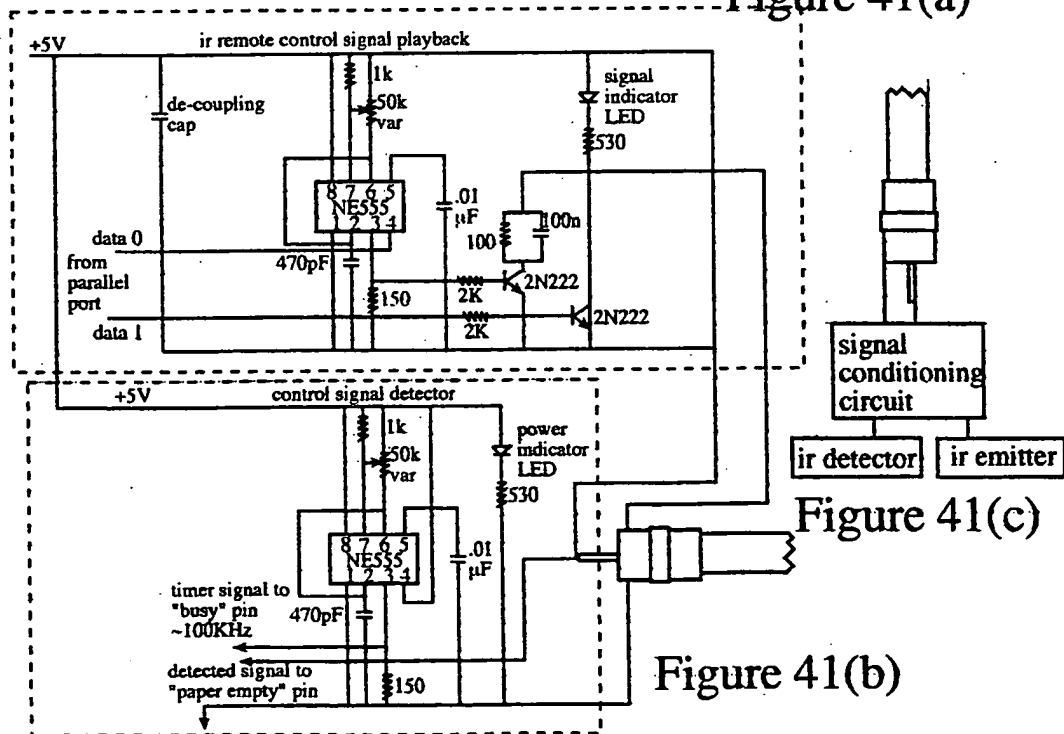


Figure 41(c)

Figure 41(b)

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Method of learning remote control
device signals for network devices

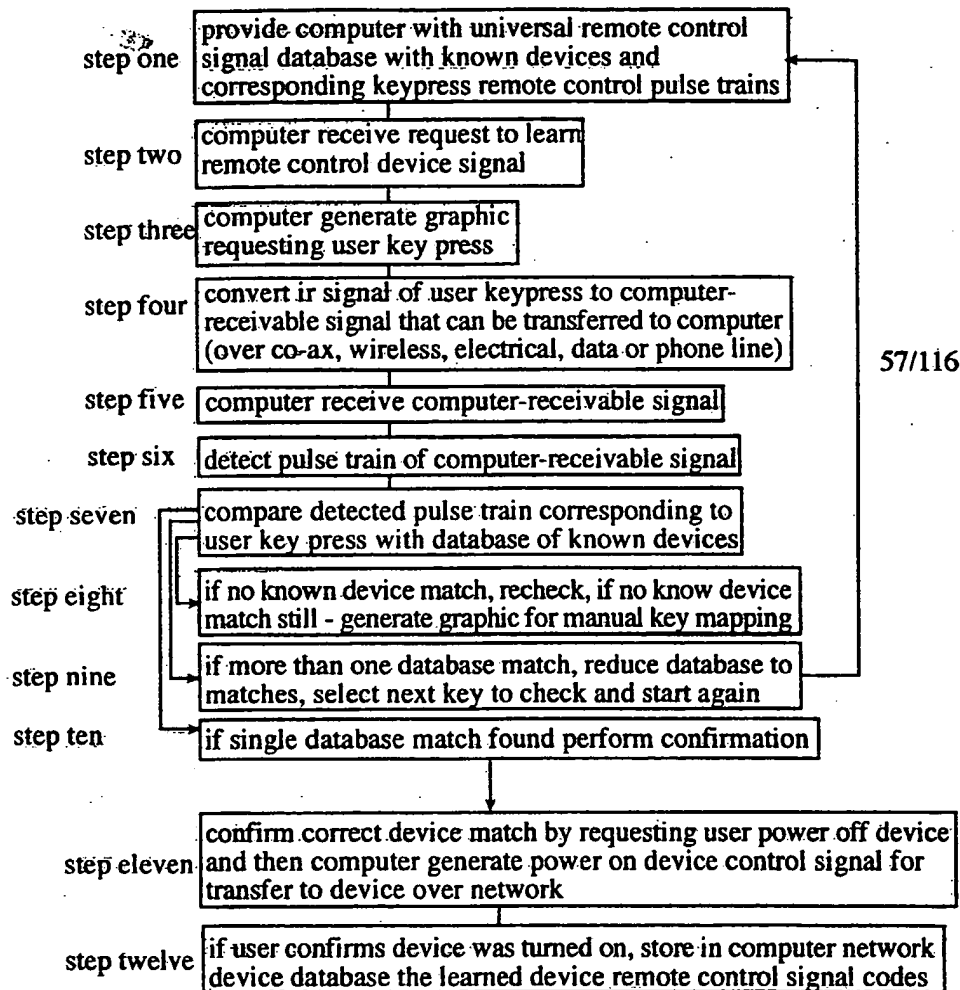


Figure 41(d)

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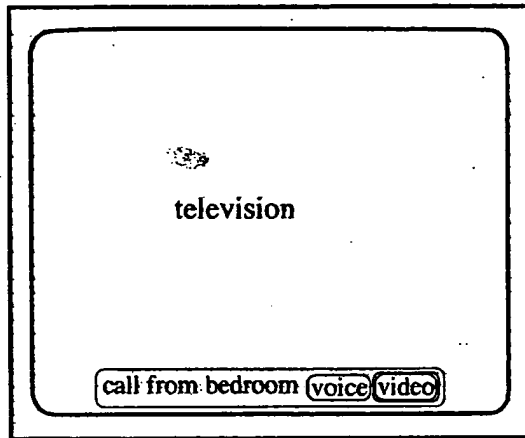


Figure 42(a)

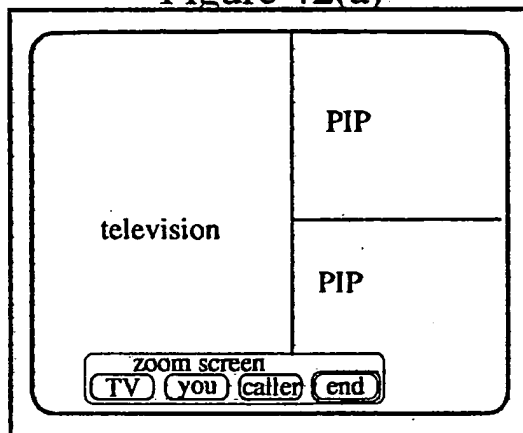


Figure 42(b)

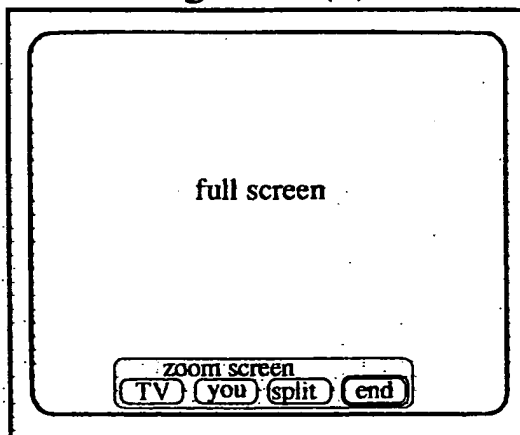


Figure 42(c)

Video Intercom Figure 43

caller initiates call by sending
intercom request to computer

send call notification to receiver:
determine receiver's channel selection
switch computer tuner1 to receiver's channel
selection
zoom tuner1 to full screen
open window "call from..."
automatically switch receiver's tv to computer
local channel:
generate device control signals using computer or
external microprocessor to switch receiver's tv to

if receiver selection = "video"

computer video output for receiver's tv:
switch computer tuner2 to receiver ccd
switch computer tuner3 to caller ccd
switch computer audio out to caller mic
close window "call from..."
open window "split zoom selection"
resize tuner1, tuner2 and tuner3 screen to
show split screen PIPs

if receiver selection = "voice"

computer video output for receiver's tv:
switch computer tuner2 to receiver ccd
switch computer tuner3 to caller ccd
switch computer audio out to caller mic
close window "call from..."
open window "tv zoom selection"
zoom tuner1 to full screen (if necessary)

if no receiver selection after time out

automatically switch receiver's tv back to
receiver's channel selection

when end is selected by either caller or receiver

automatically switch receiver's tv back to
receiver's channel selection

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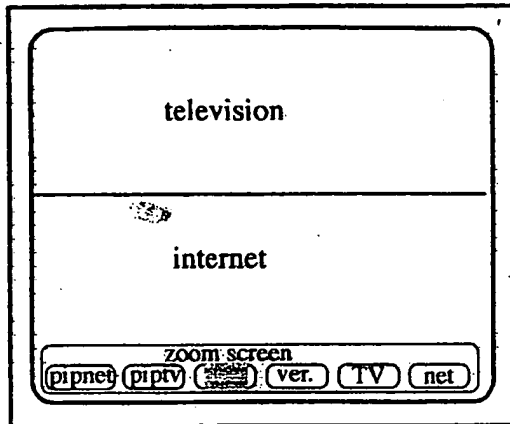


Figure 44(a)

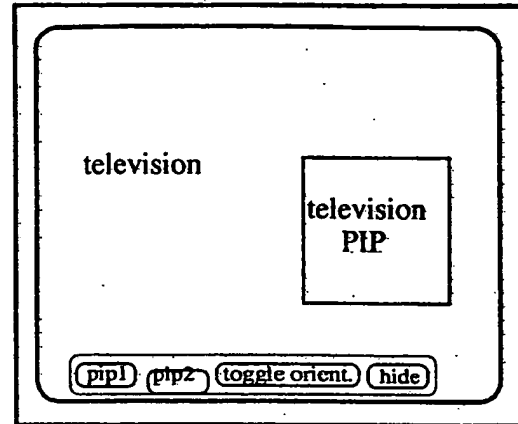


Figure 45(a)

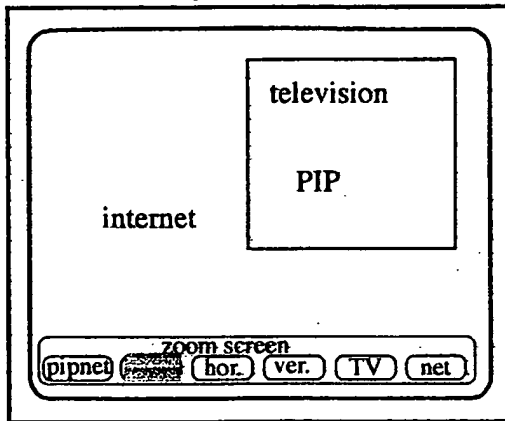


Figure 44(b)

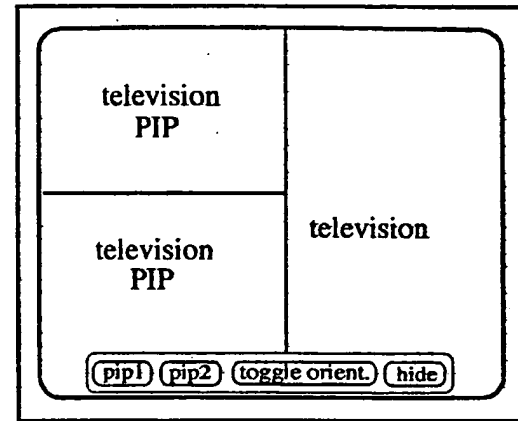


Figure 45(b)

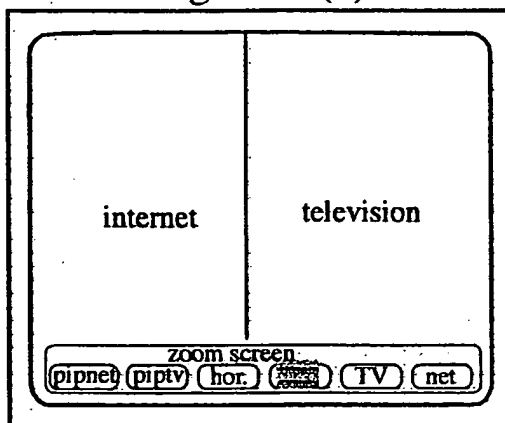


Figure 44(c)

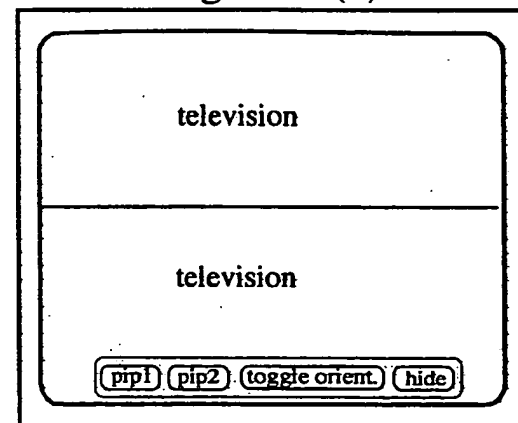
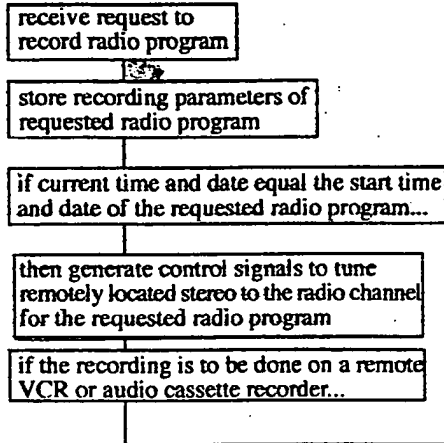


Figure 45(c)

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Computer-Enabled Recording of Radio Programs
with Content-Indicating Information Signal

convert the output of the stereo to a local audio channel; generate control signals to tune the remote recording device to receive the local audio channel; and generate control signals to begin recording the requested radio program

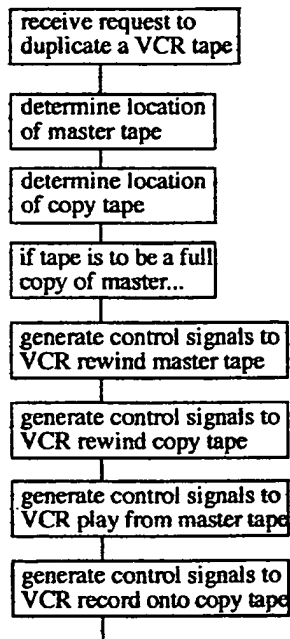
else if the recording is to be done on a stereo cassette recorder associated with the tuner...

generate control signals to begin recording the requested radio program

at the end of the requested radio program, generate control signals to stop recording, generate content-indicating information signal; record content-indicating information signal in the manner described herein for VCR tape content.

Figure 46

VCR tape duplication and editing system



if tape is to be an edited version of master...

Figure 60(a)

determine which recorded content of master tape are to be recorded on edited tape

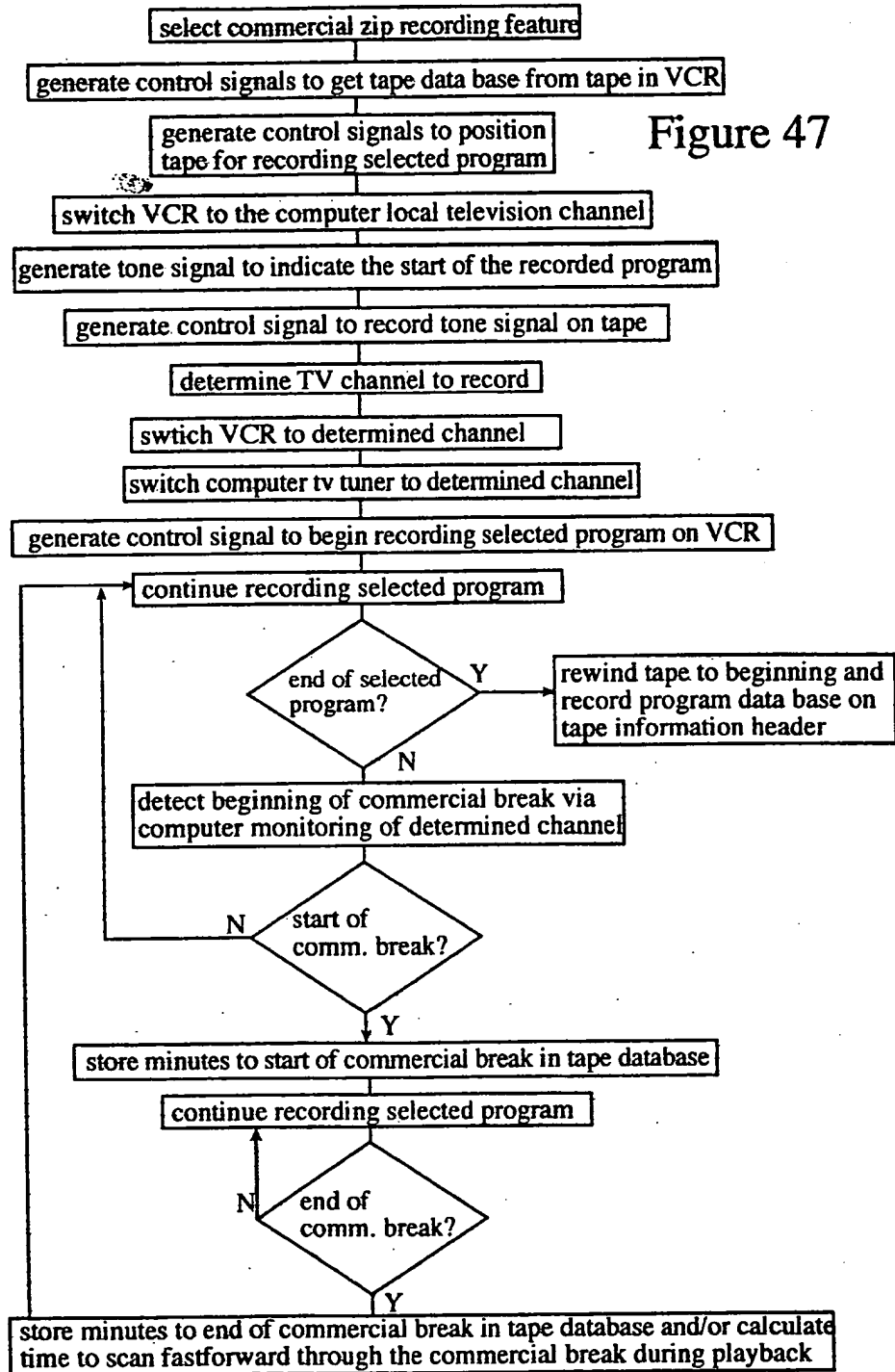
determine order of recording content

generate control signals to control master tape to download content-indicating information signal to computer over network

determine from content-indicating information identity and timing of control signals necessary to record on copy tape the edited version of the master tape having the content and content order desired

generate the control signals necessary to control the VCR's so as to record on copy tape the edited version of the master tape having the content and content order desired

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in this version, the VCR and the computer are
tuned to the determined channel simultaneously

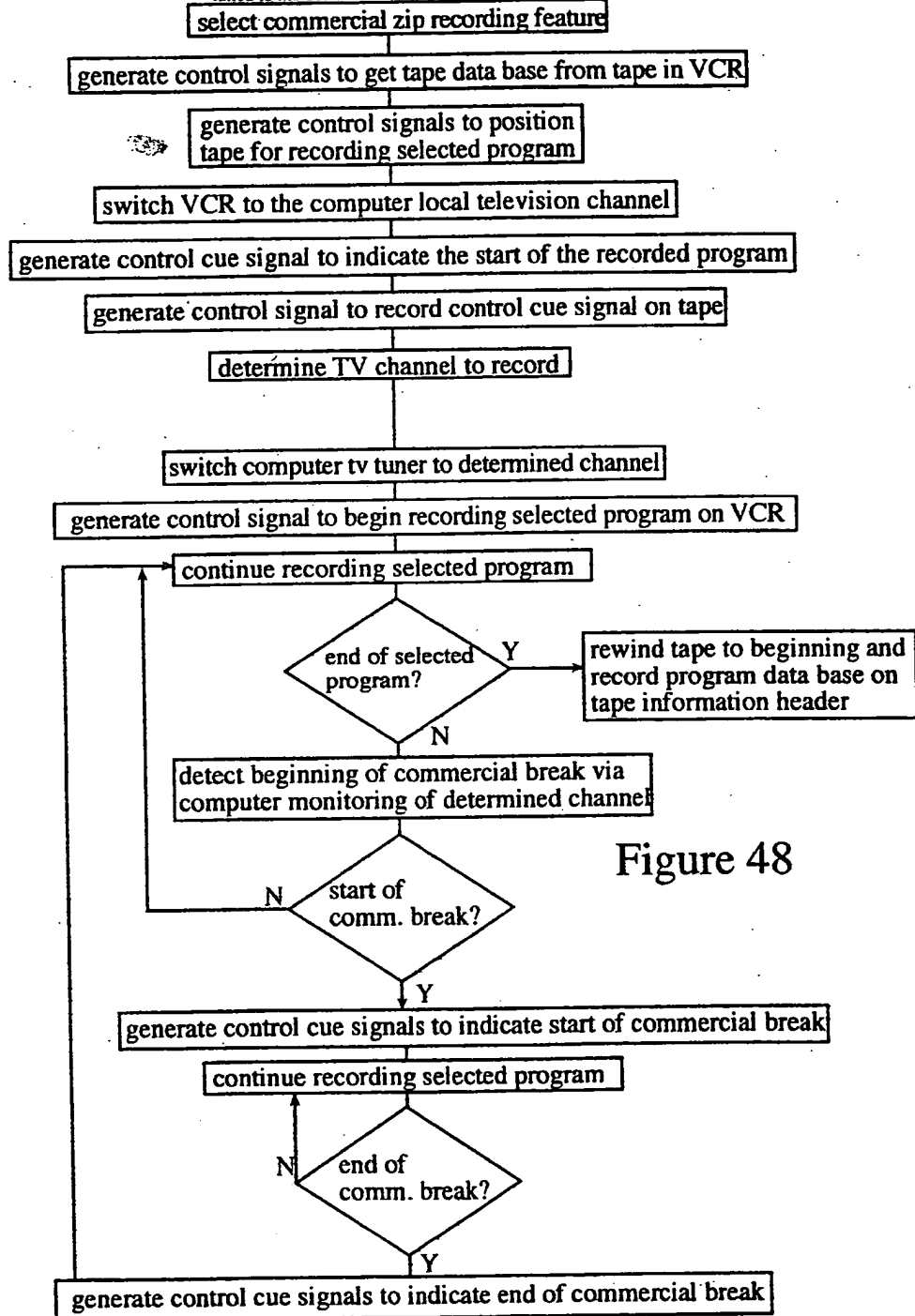
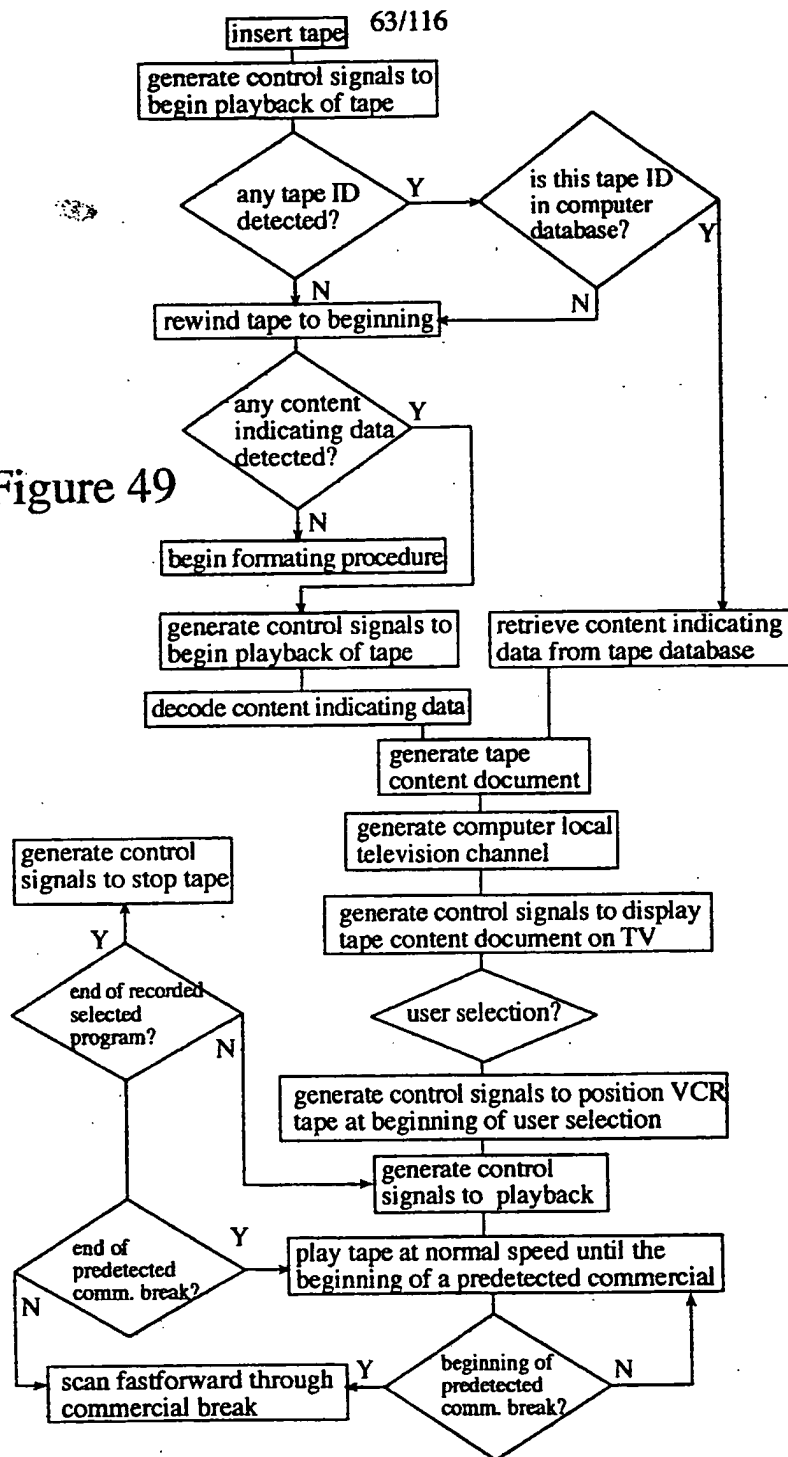


Figure 48

Figure 49



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TV Viewing Autopilot

determine identity by receiving id code, voice recognition or through GUI interaction

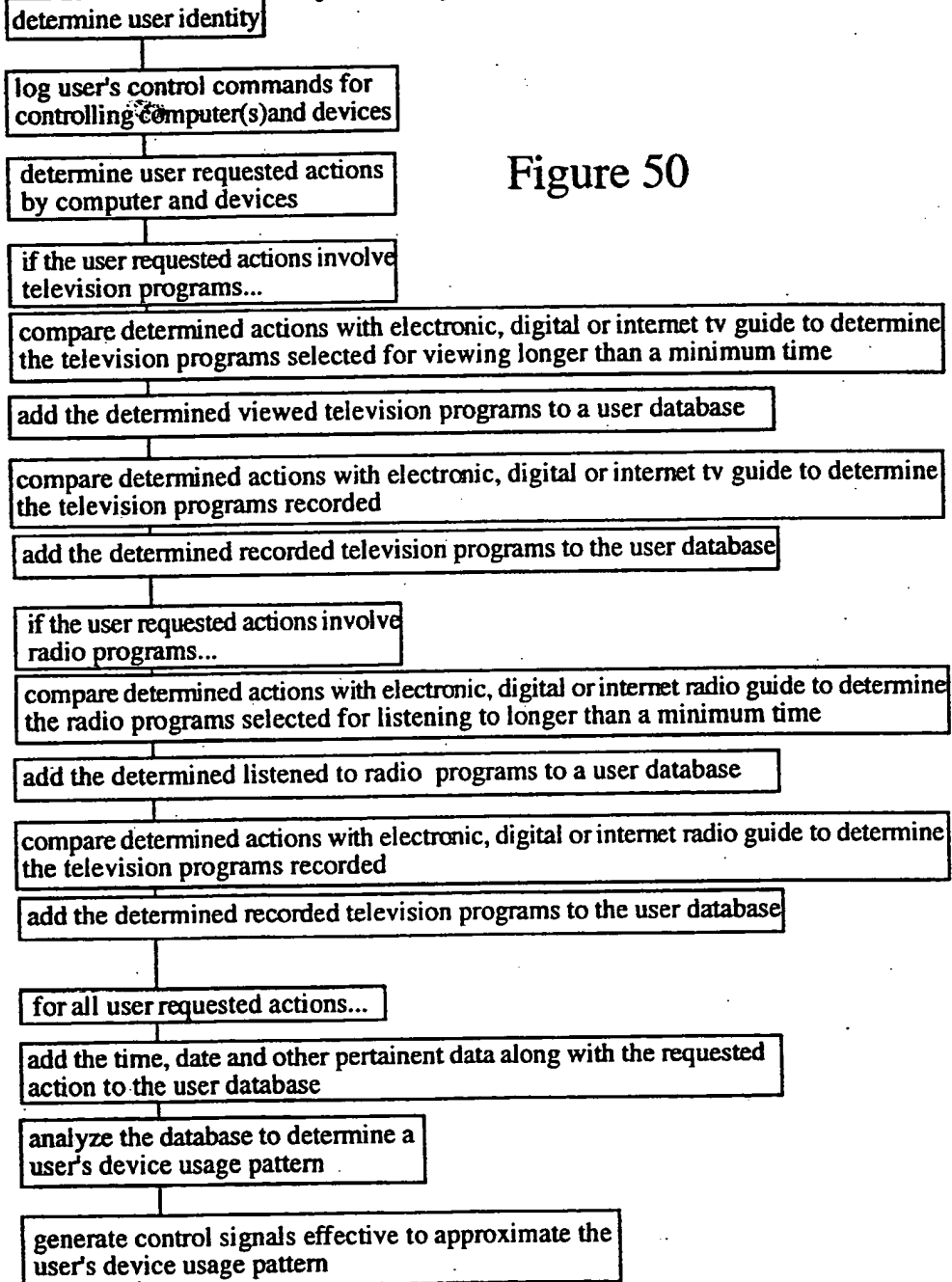


Figure 50

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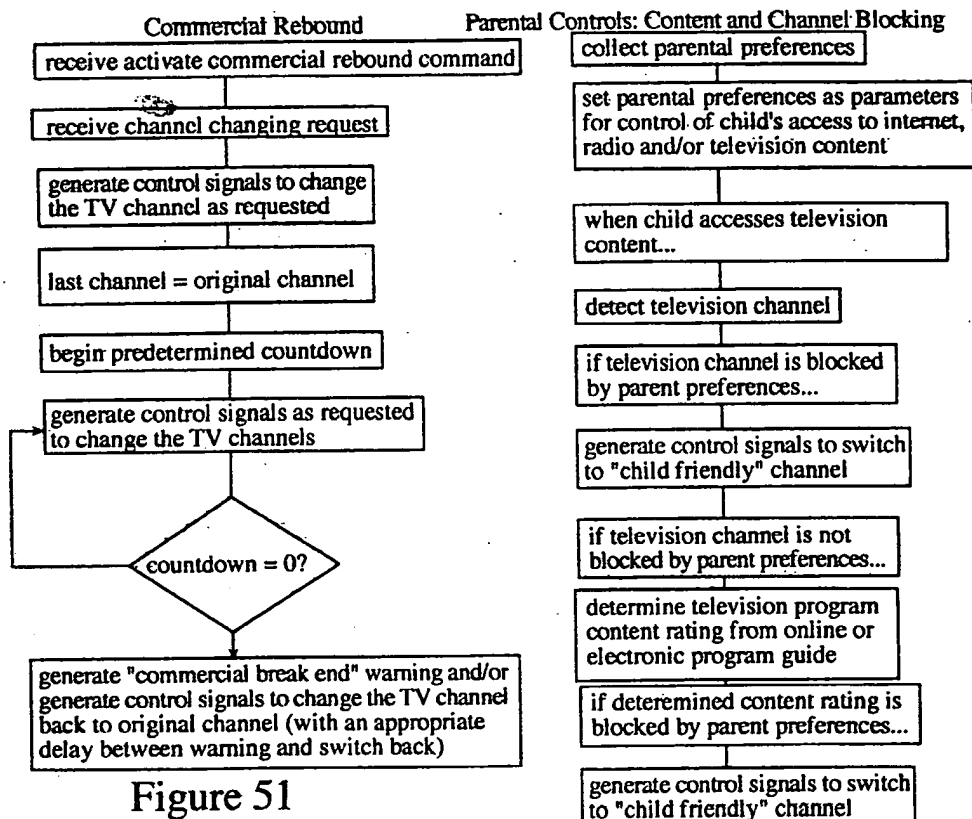


Figure 51

Figure 52

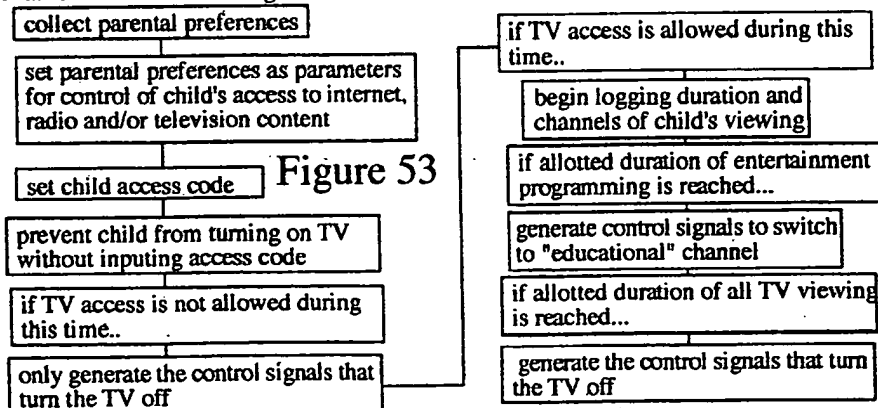
Parental Controls: TV Viewing Time Restraints

Figure 53

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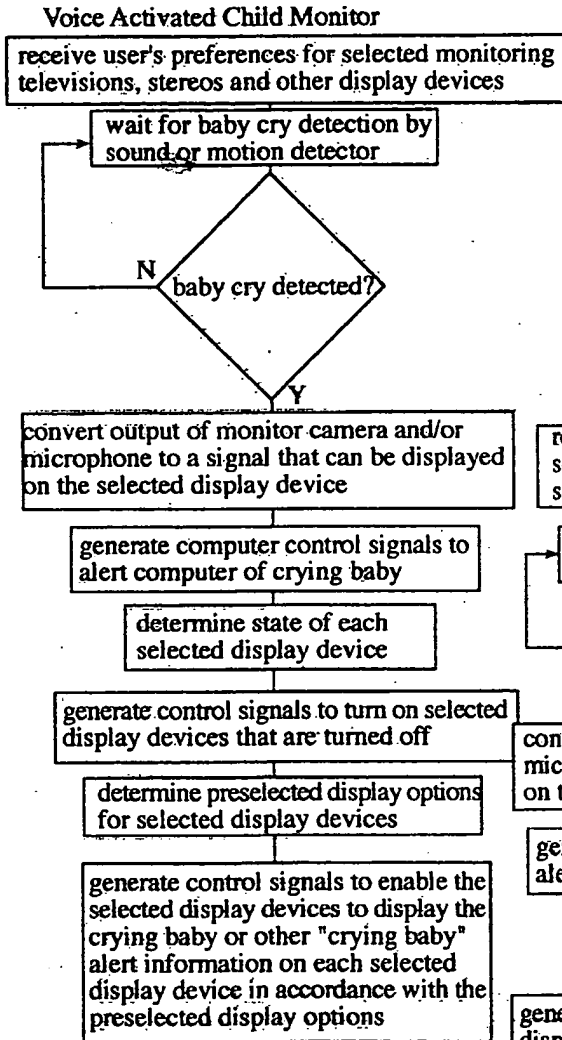


Figure 54

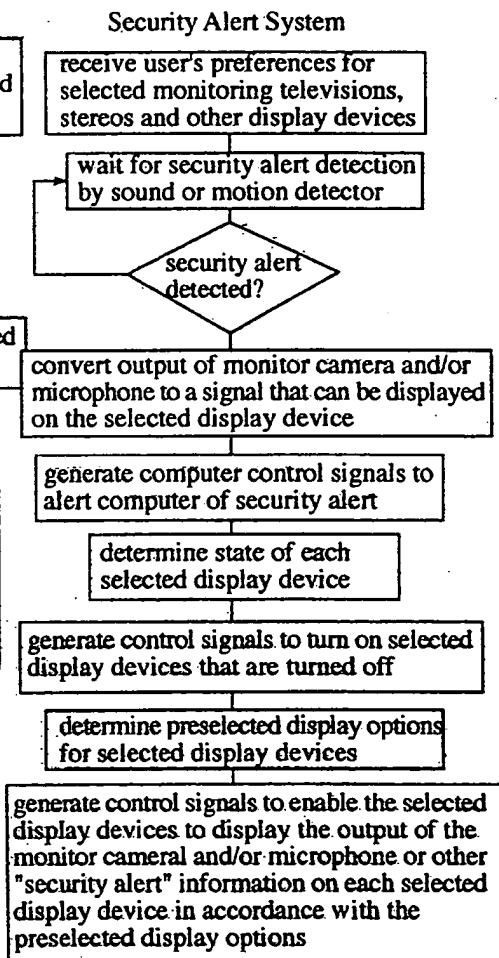


Figure 55

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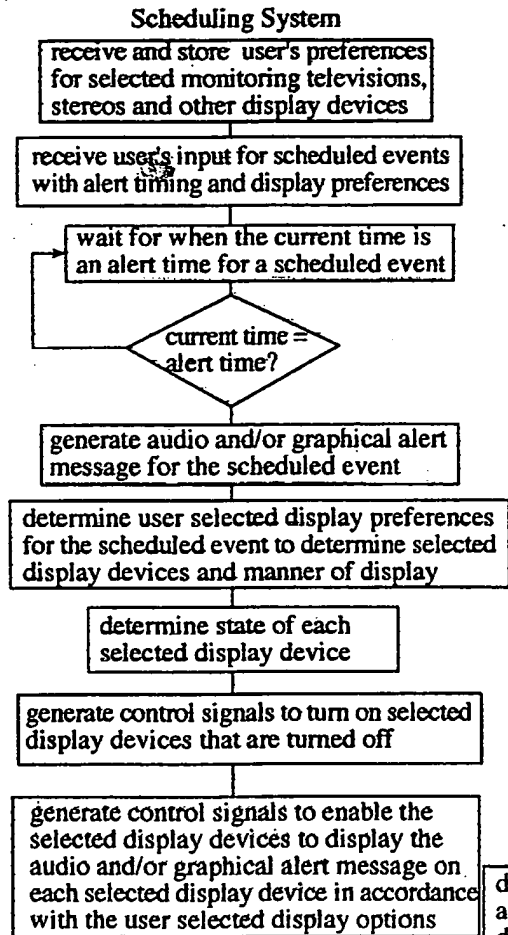


Figure 56

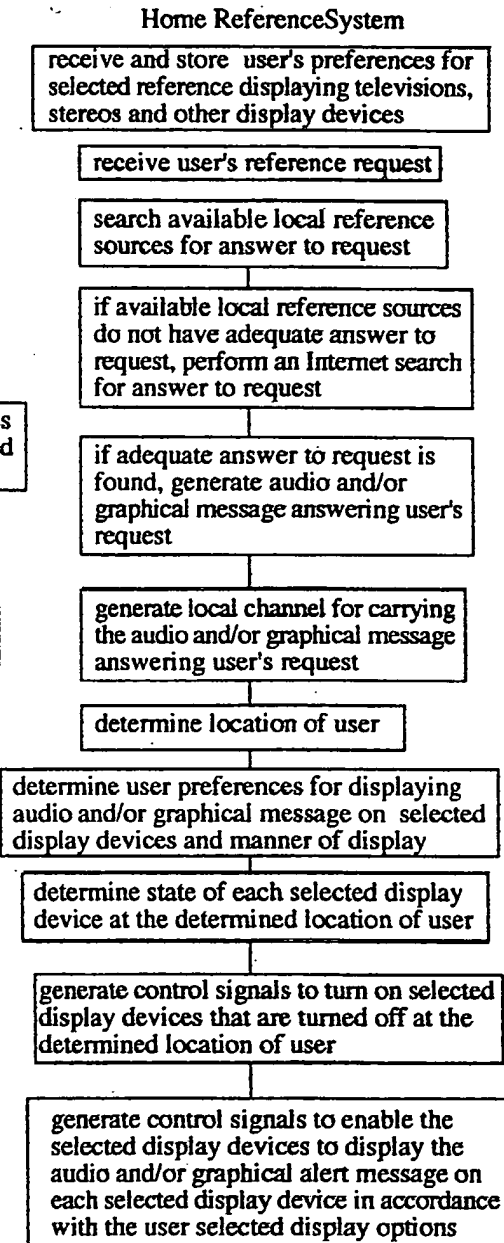
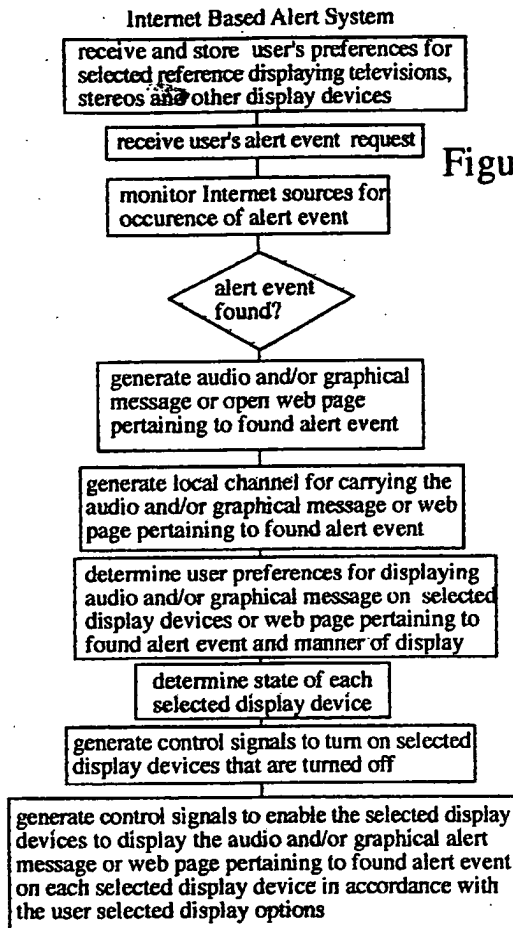


Figure 57

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Figure 58



monitoring internet might be a continuous background check of stock quotes, news items, weather reports etc. if Internet connection is continuous. If Internet connection is not continuous, then automatic connections and searching for the event can occur. The timing and frequency of the connection can be selected and specific for type of alert (stock quotes every 1/2 hour during trading day, weather alerts two or three times a day, etc.)

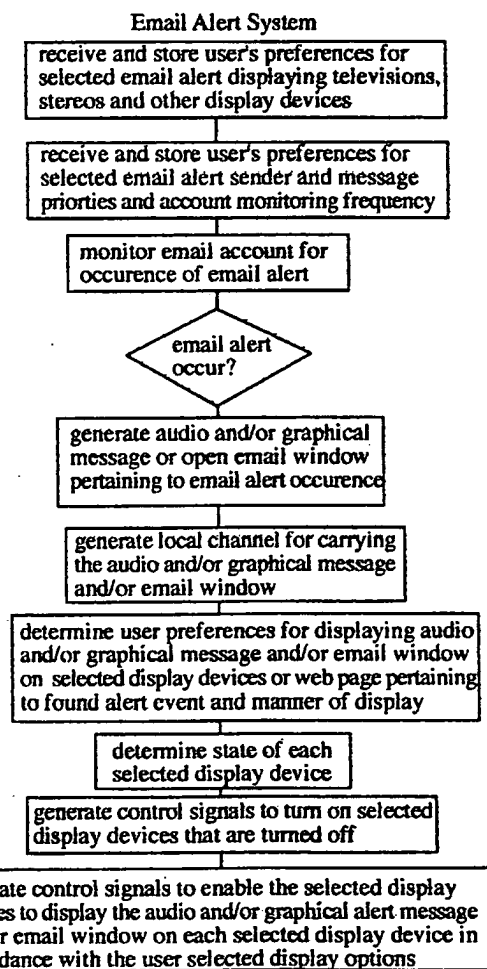


Figure 59

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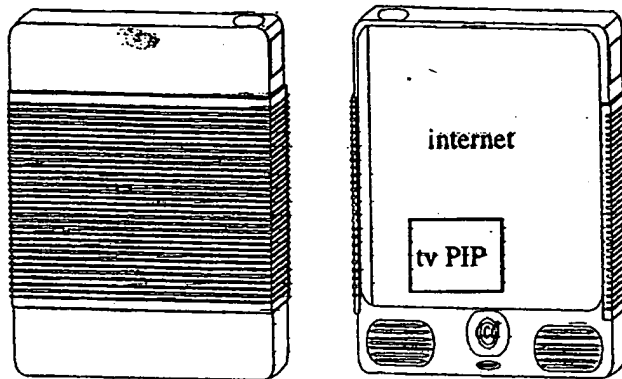


Figure 60(c)

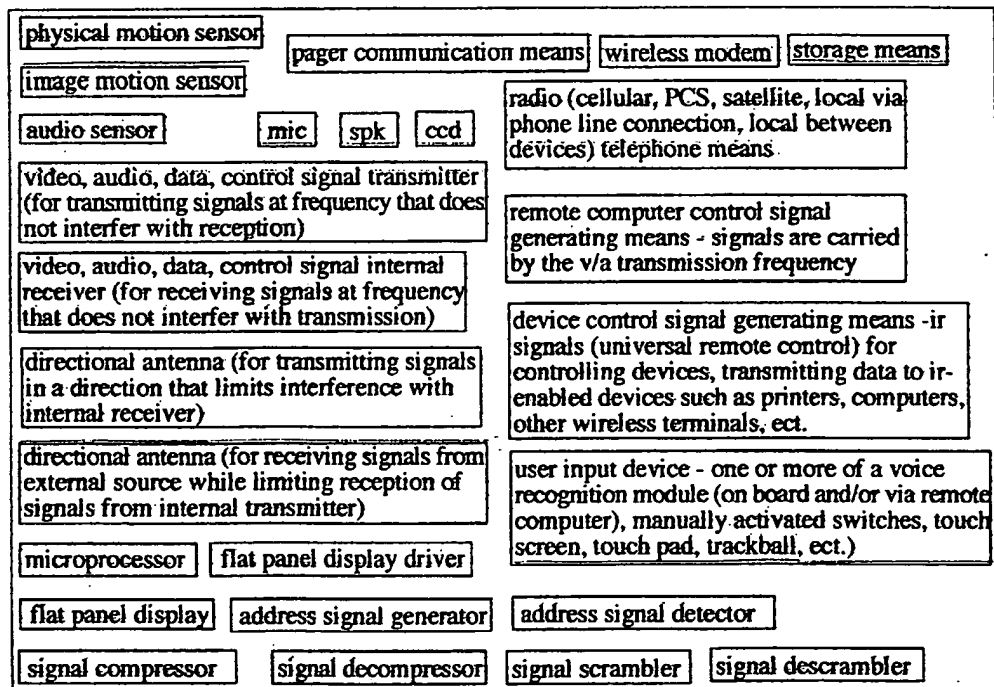
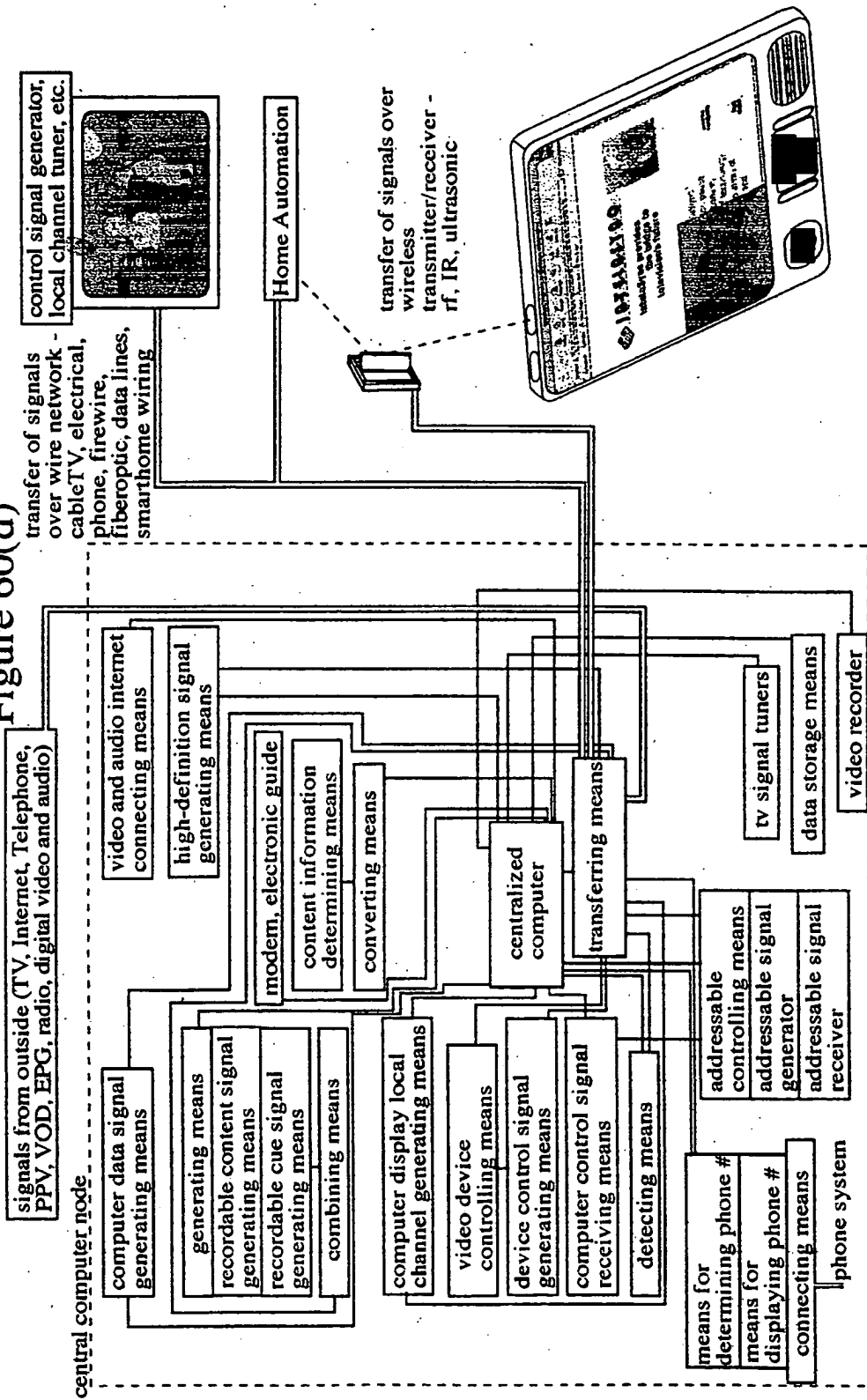


Figure 60(d)



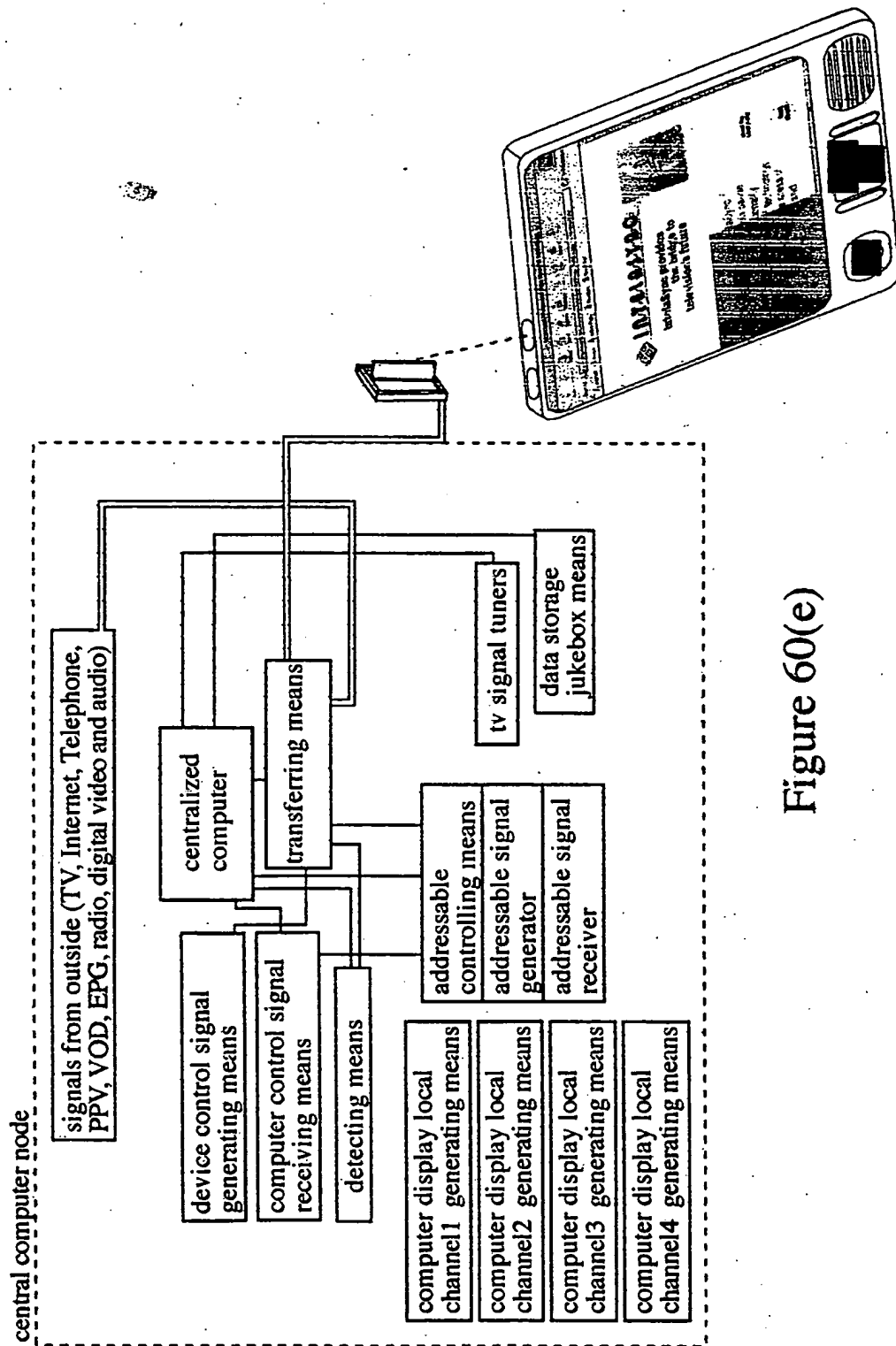
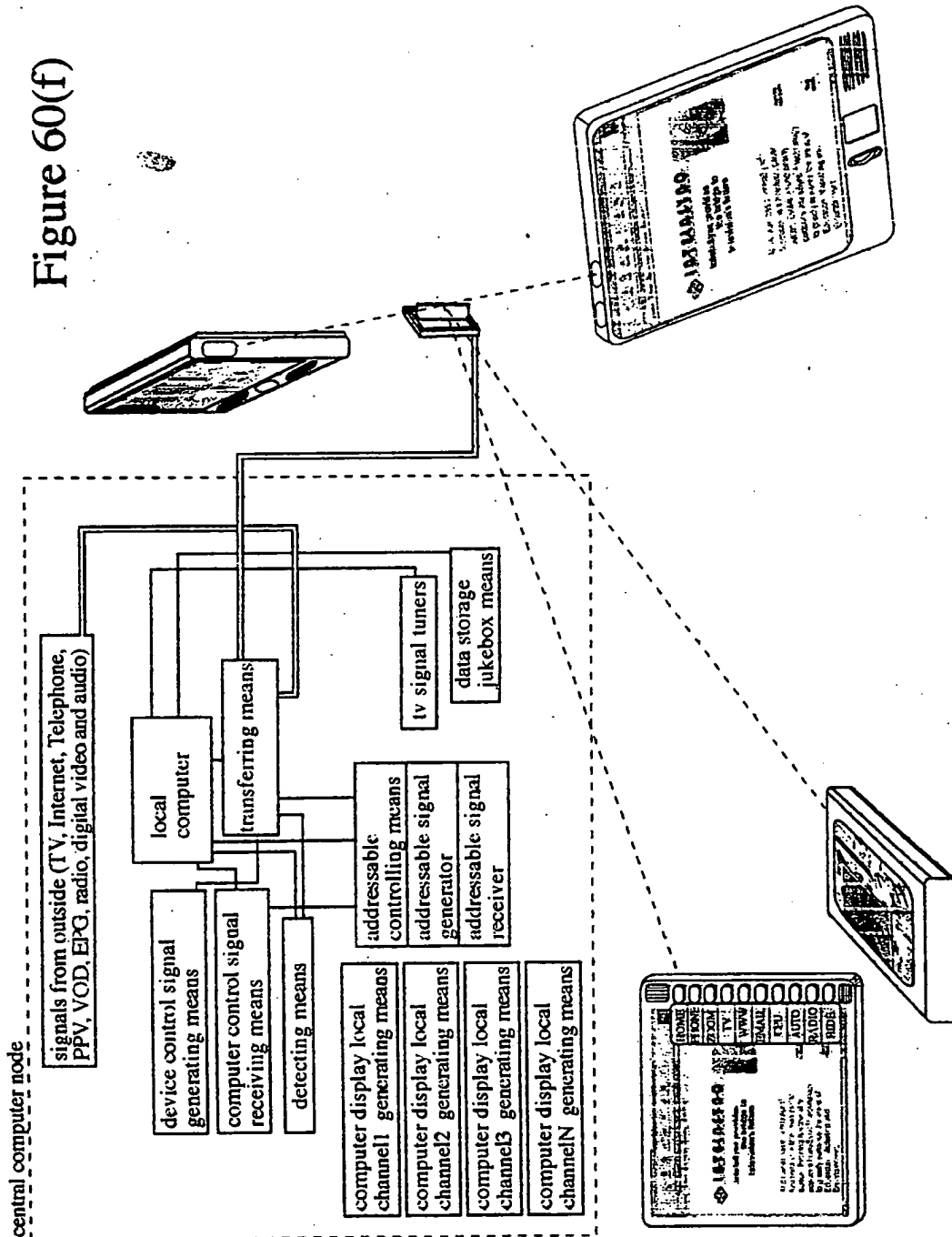


Figure 60(e)

Figure 60(f)



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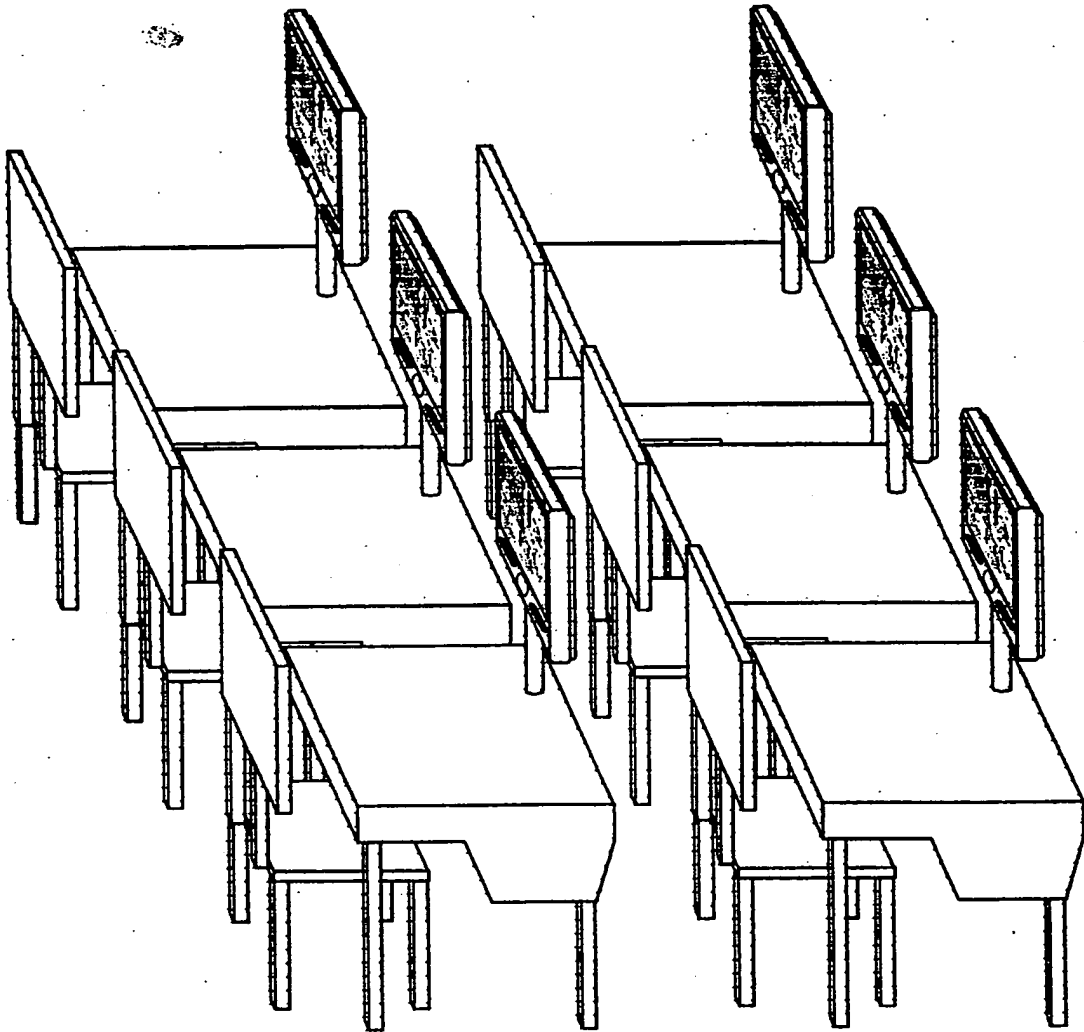
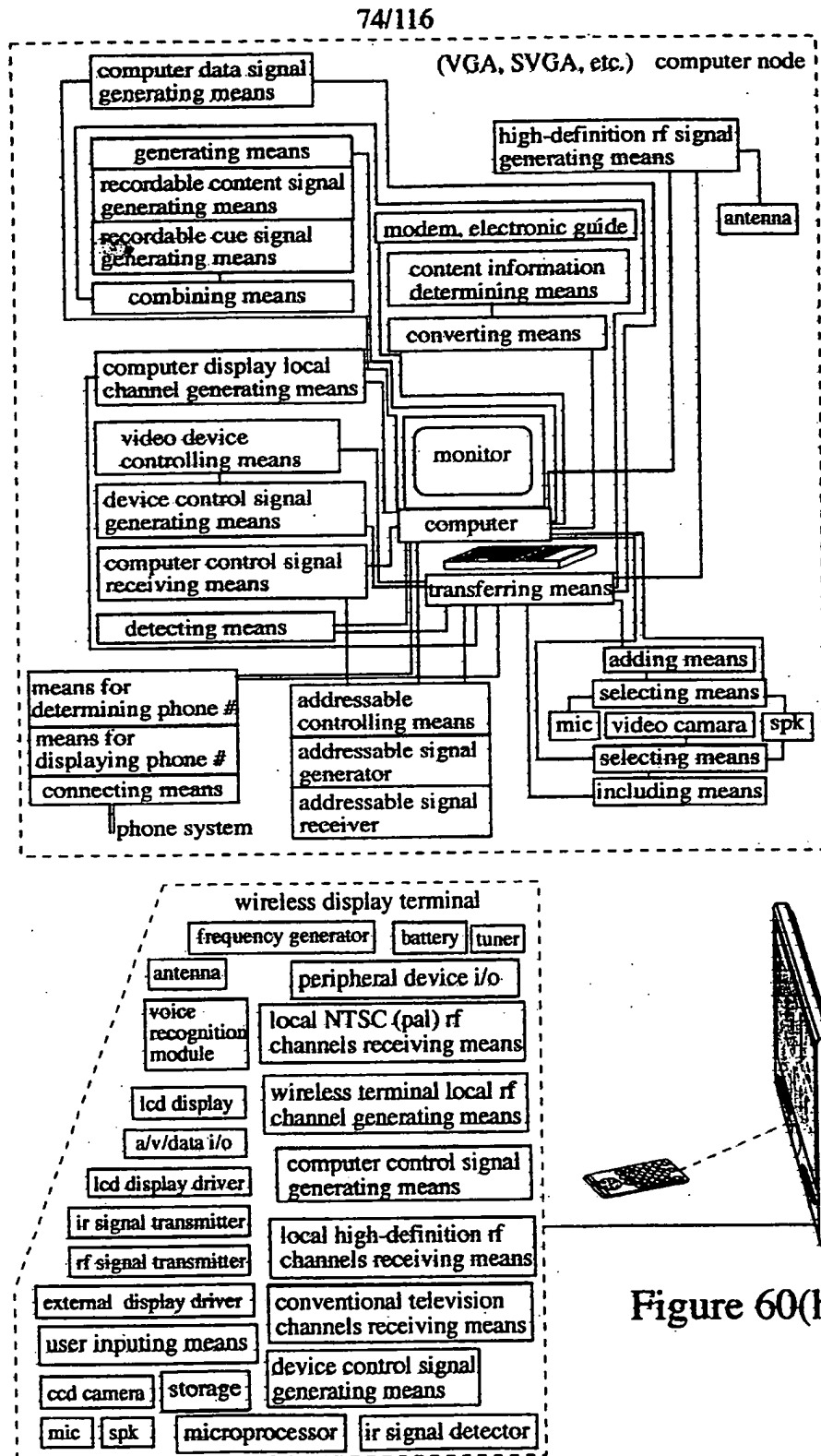


Figure 60(g)



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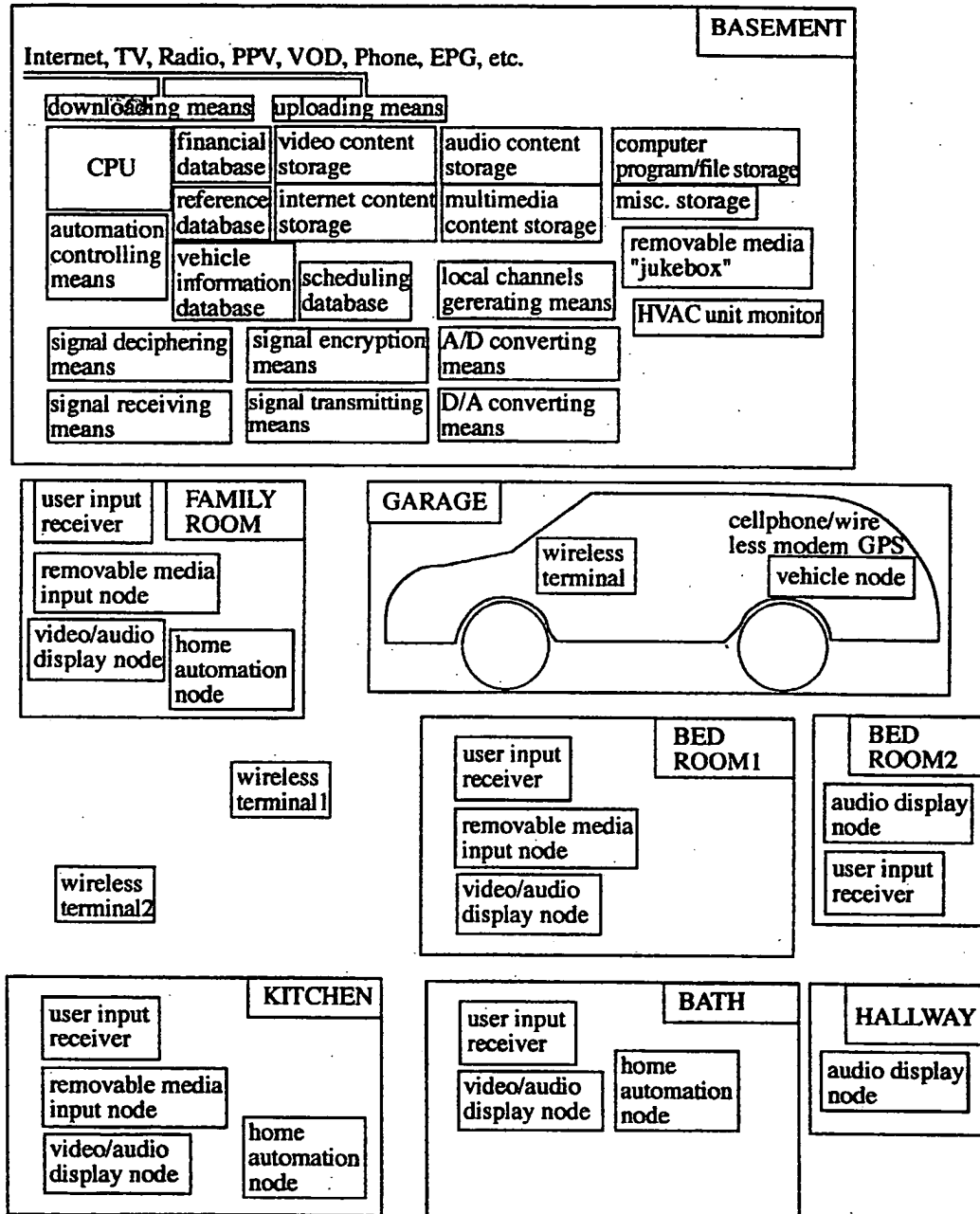


Figure 60(i)

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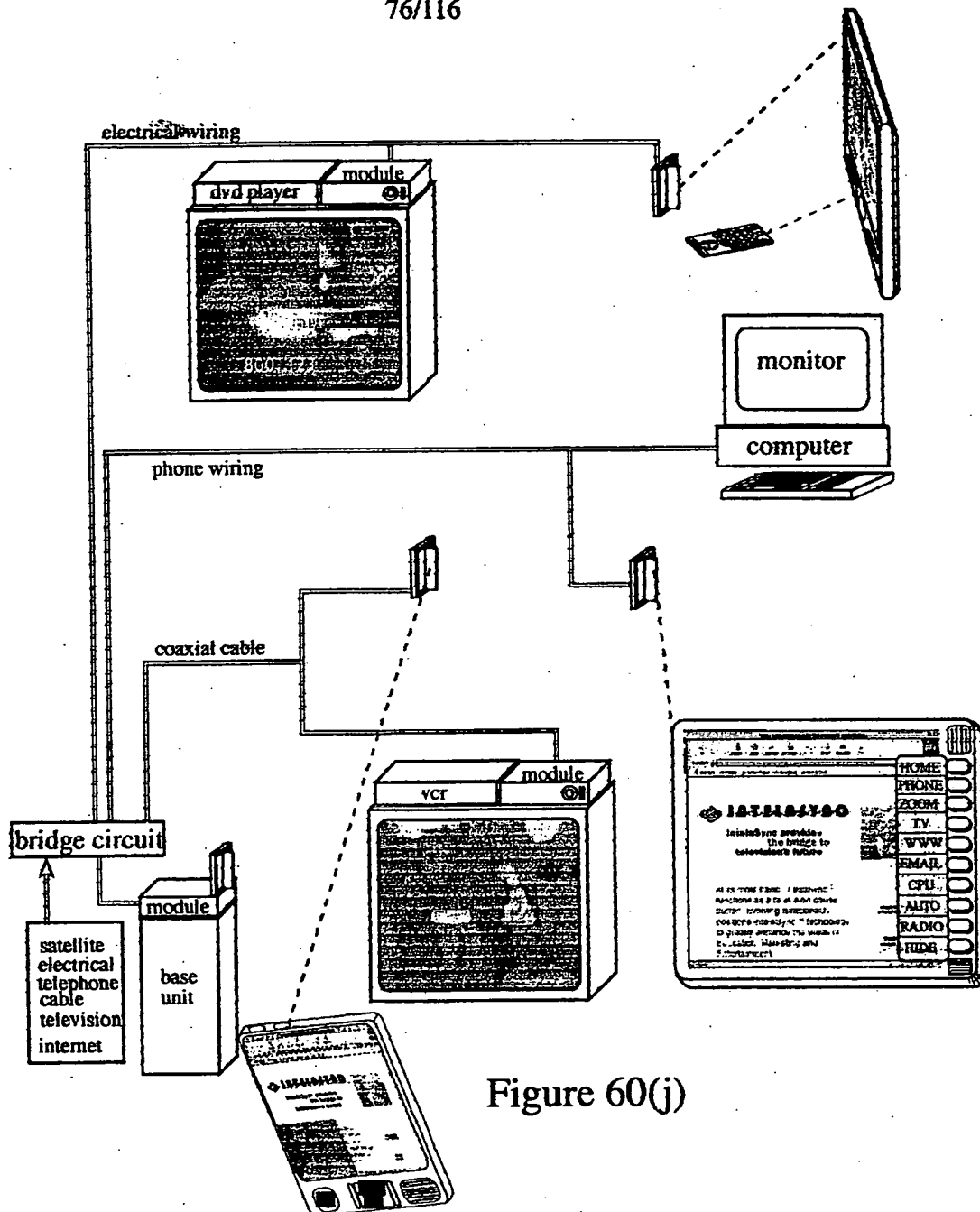
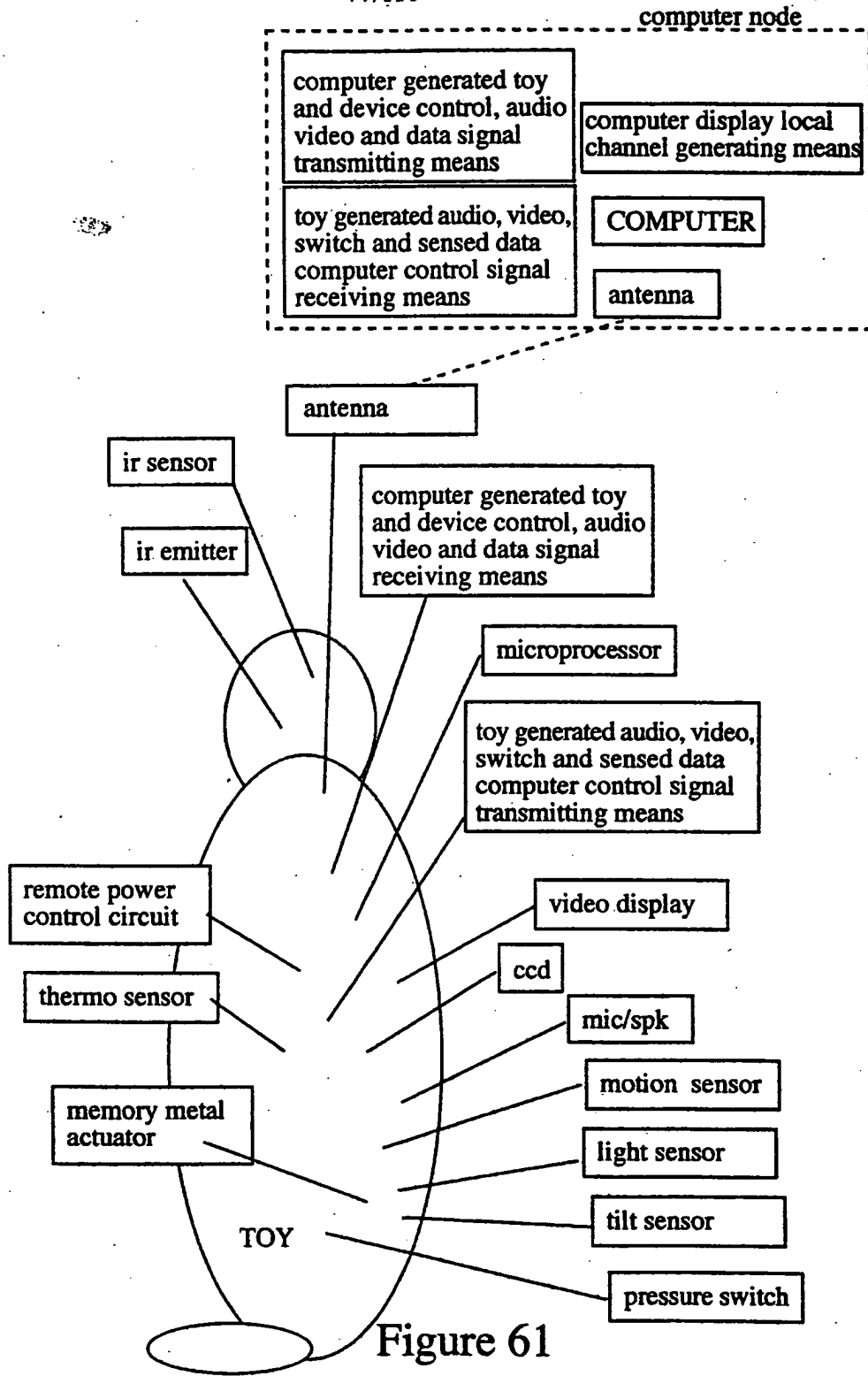


Figure 60(j)

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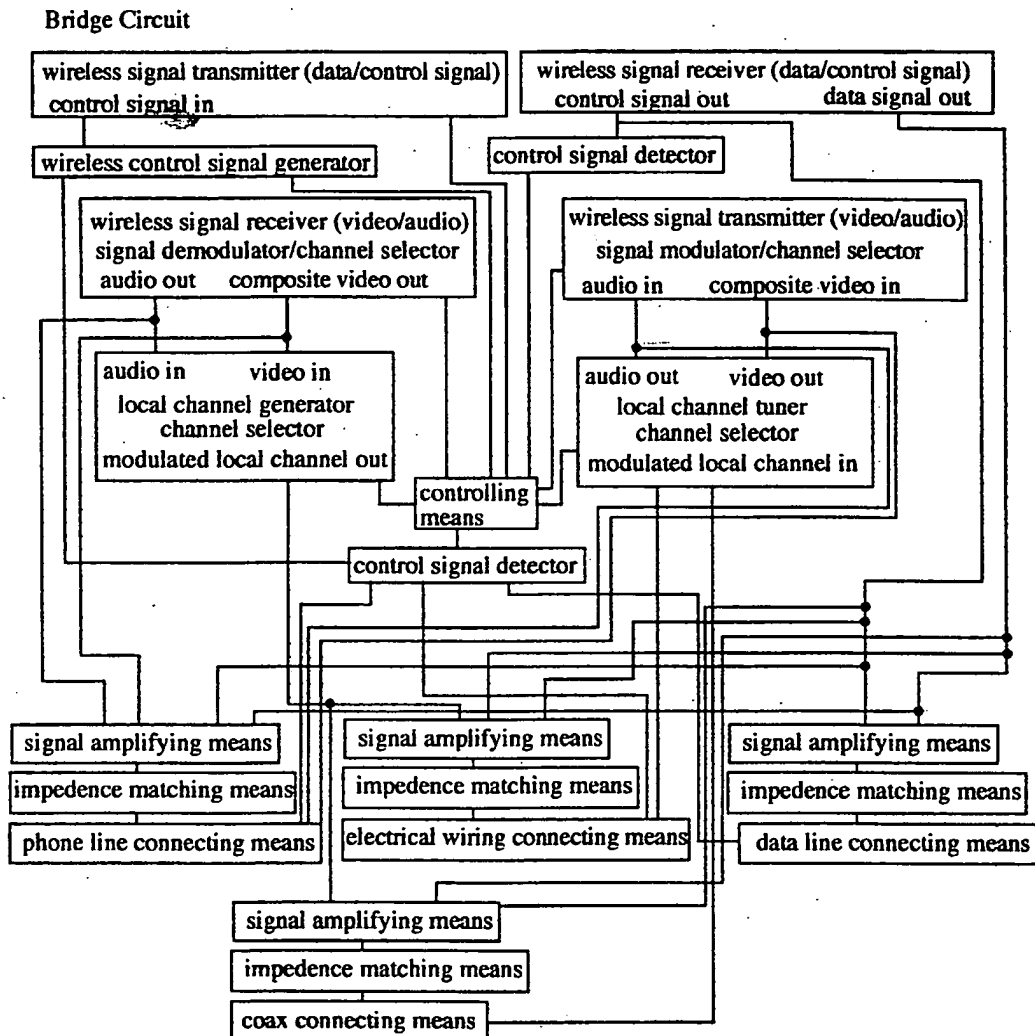


Figure 62(a)

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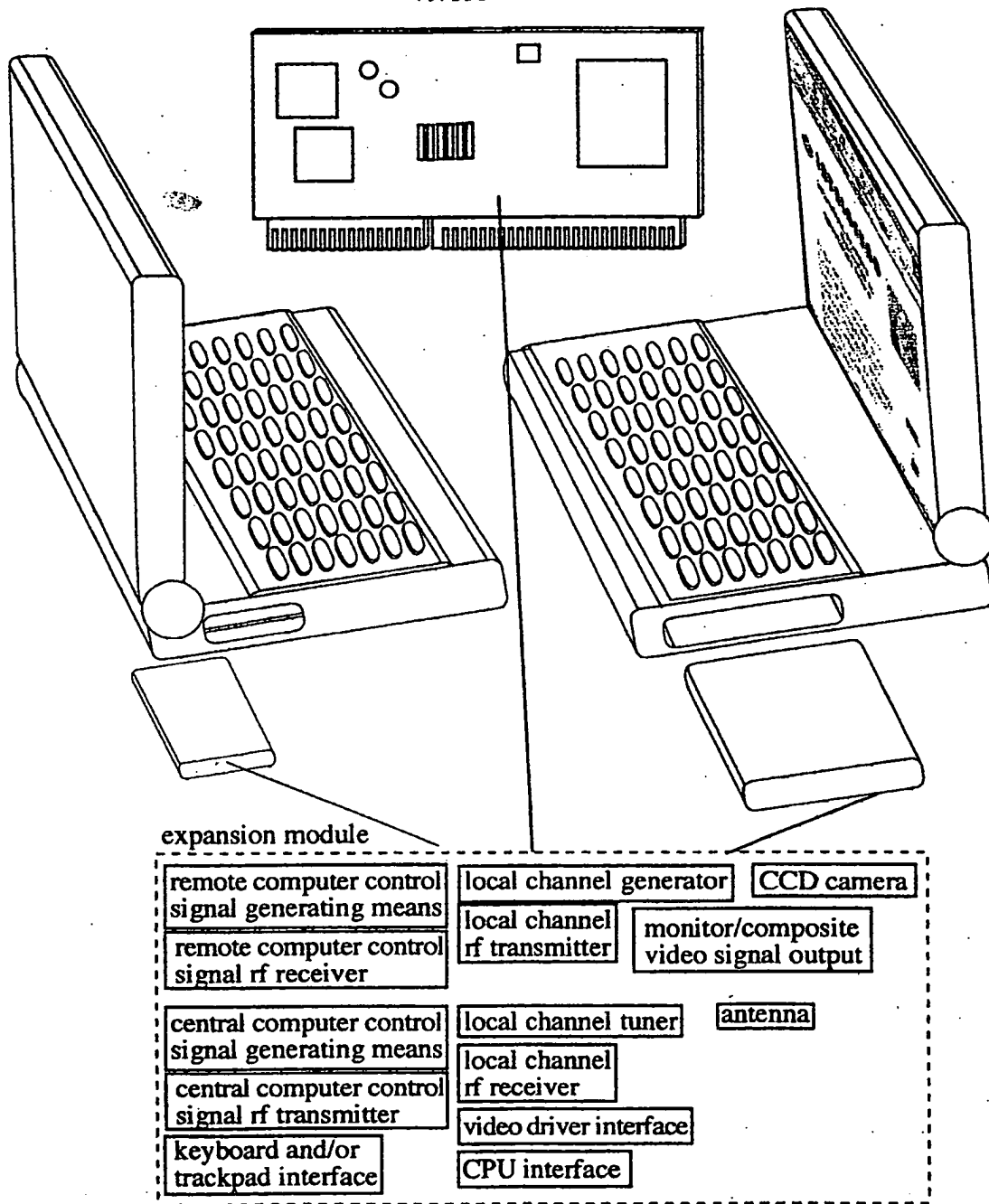
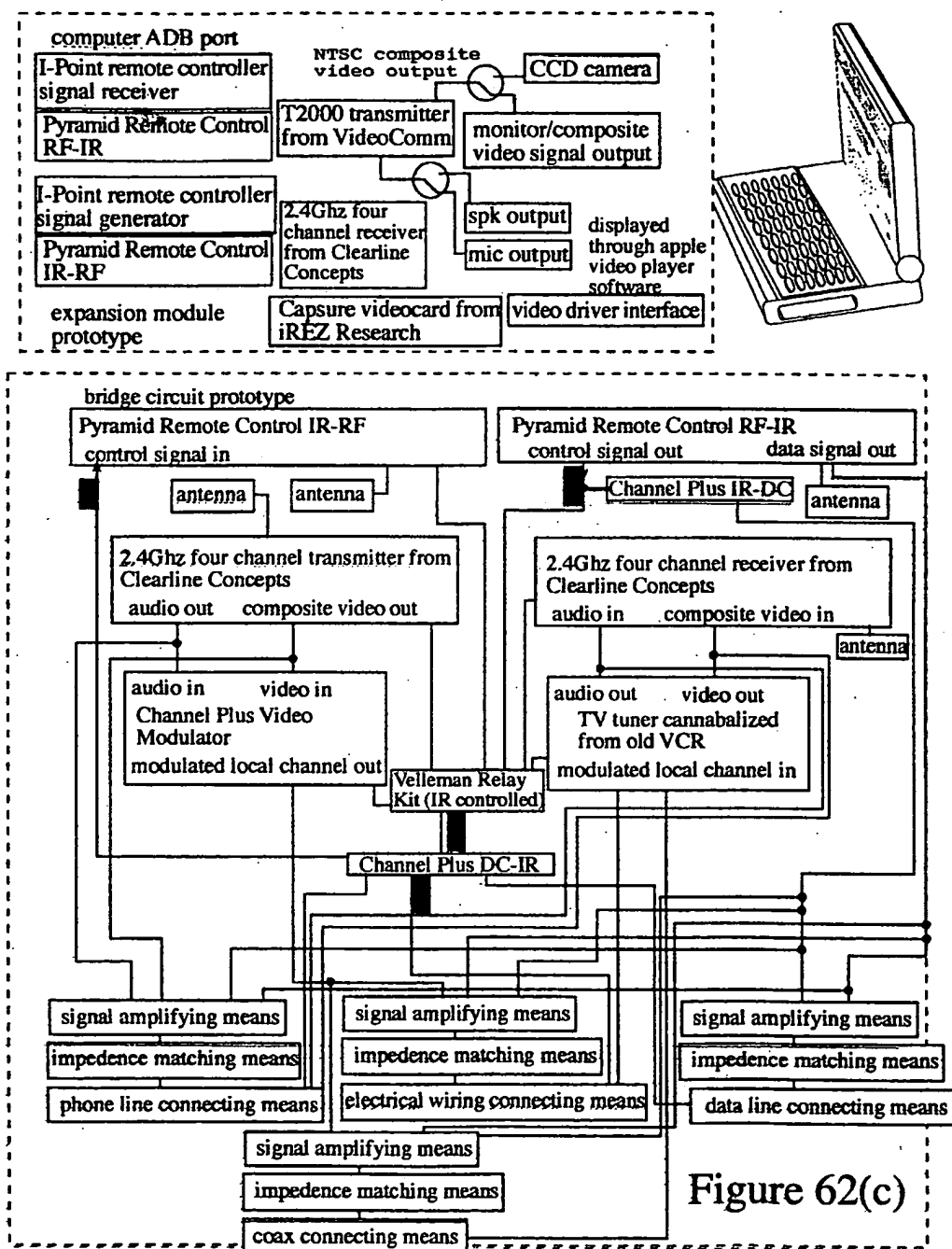


Figure 62(b)

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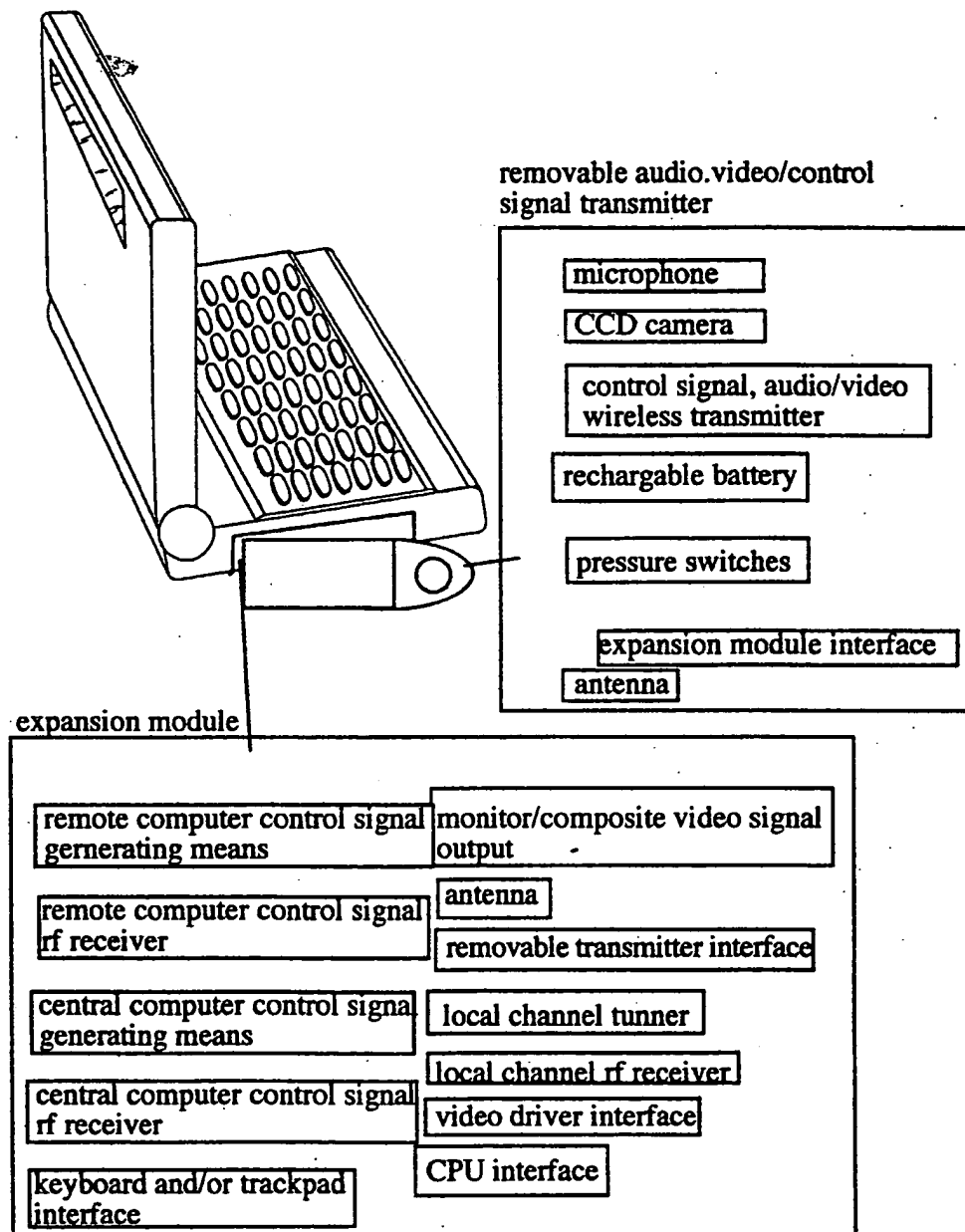


Figure 62(d)

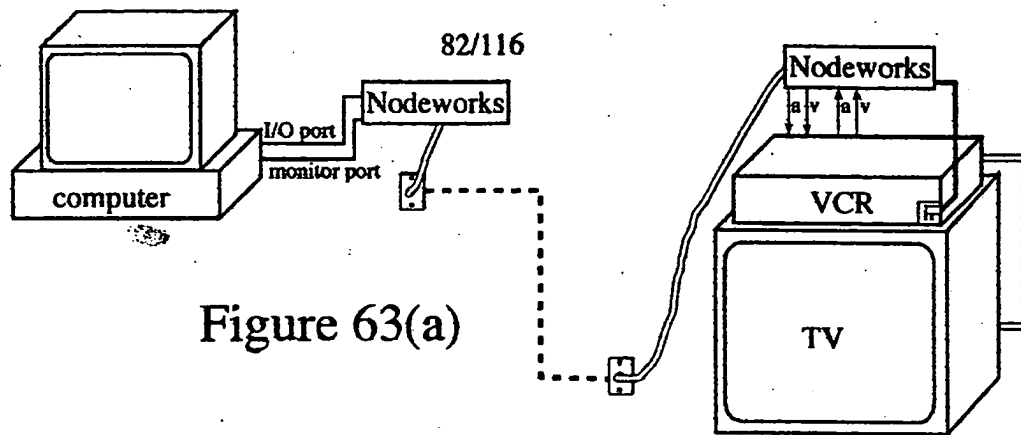


Figure 63(a)

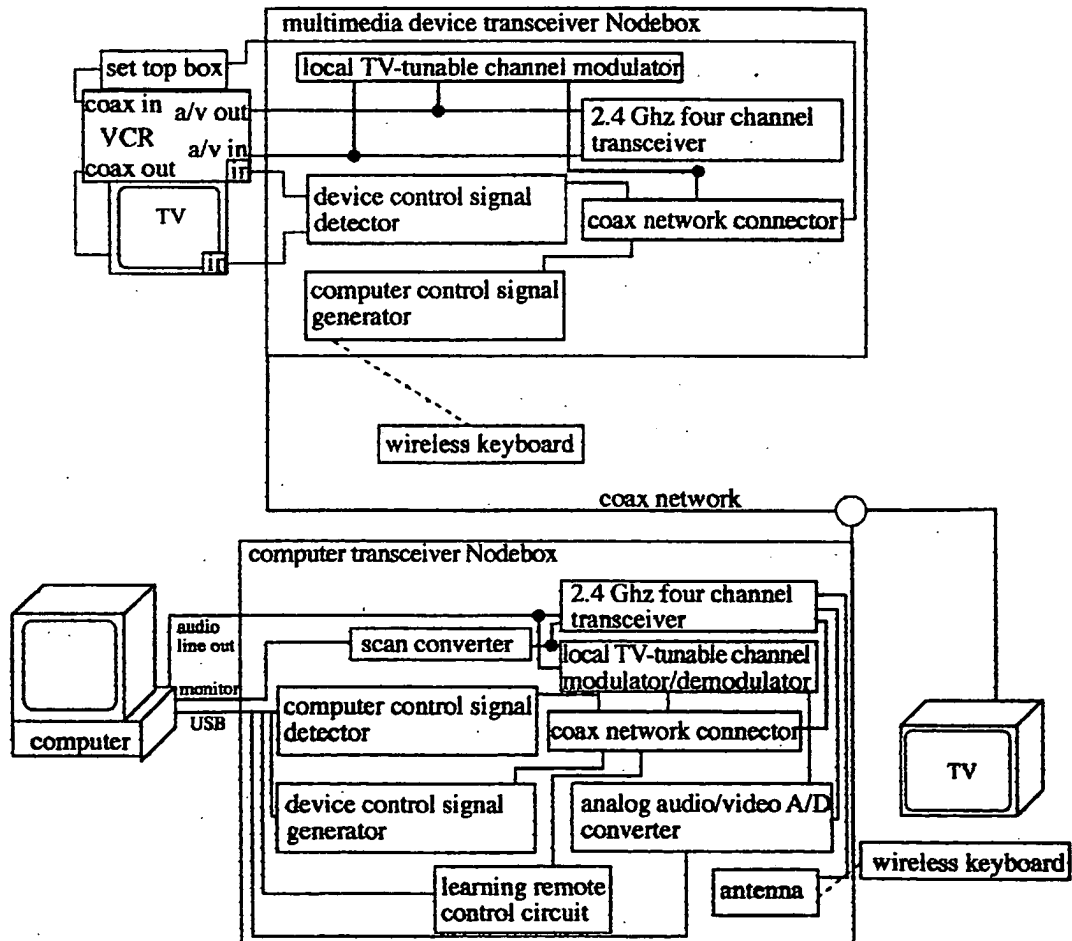
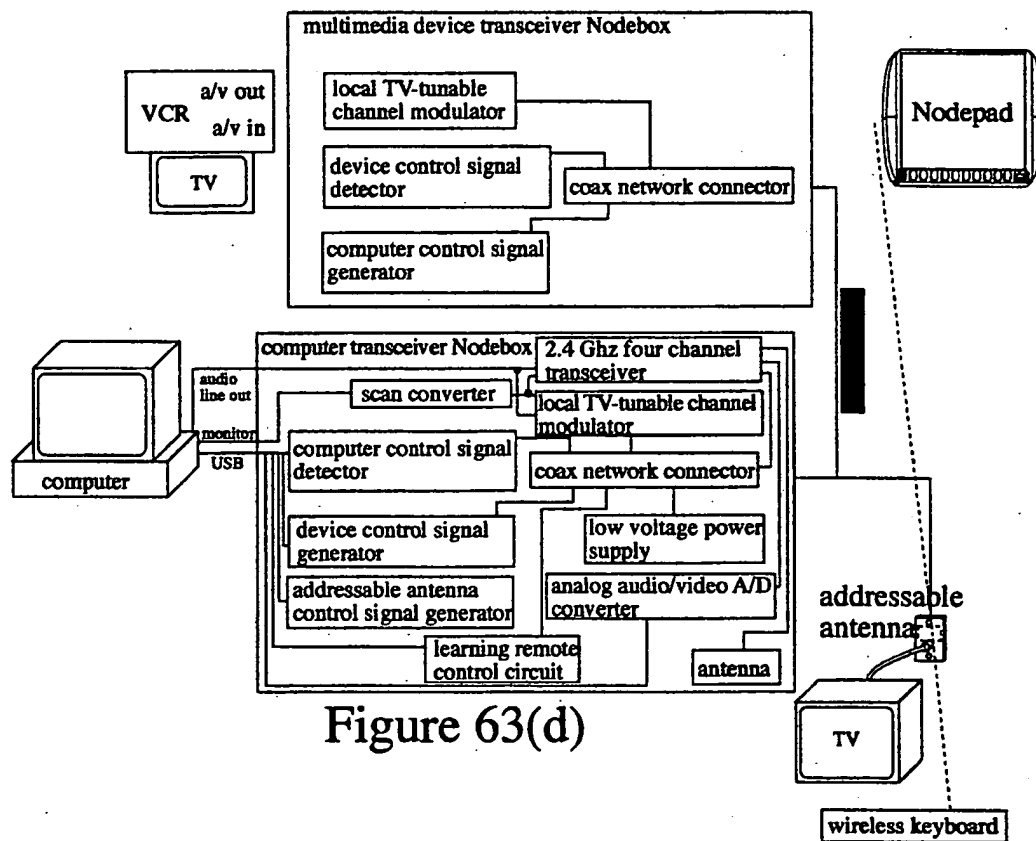


Figure 63(b)

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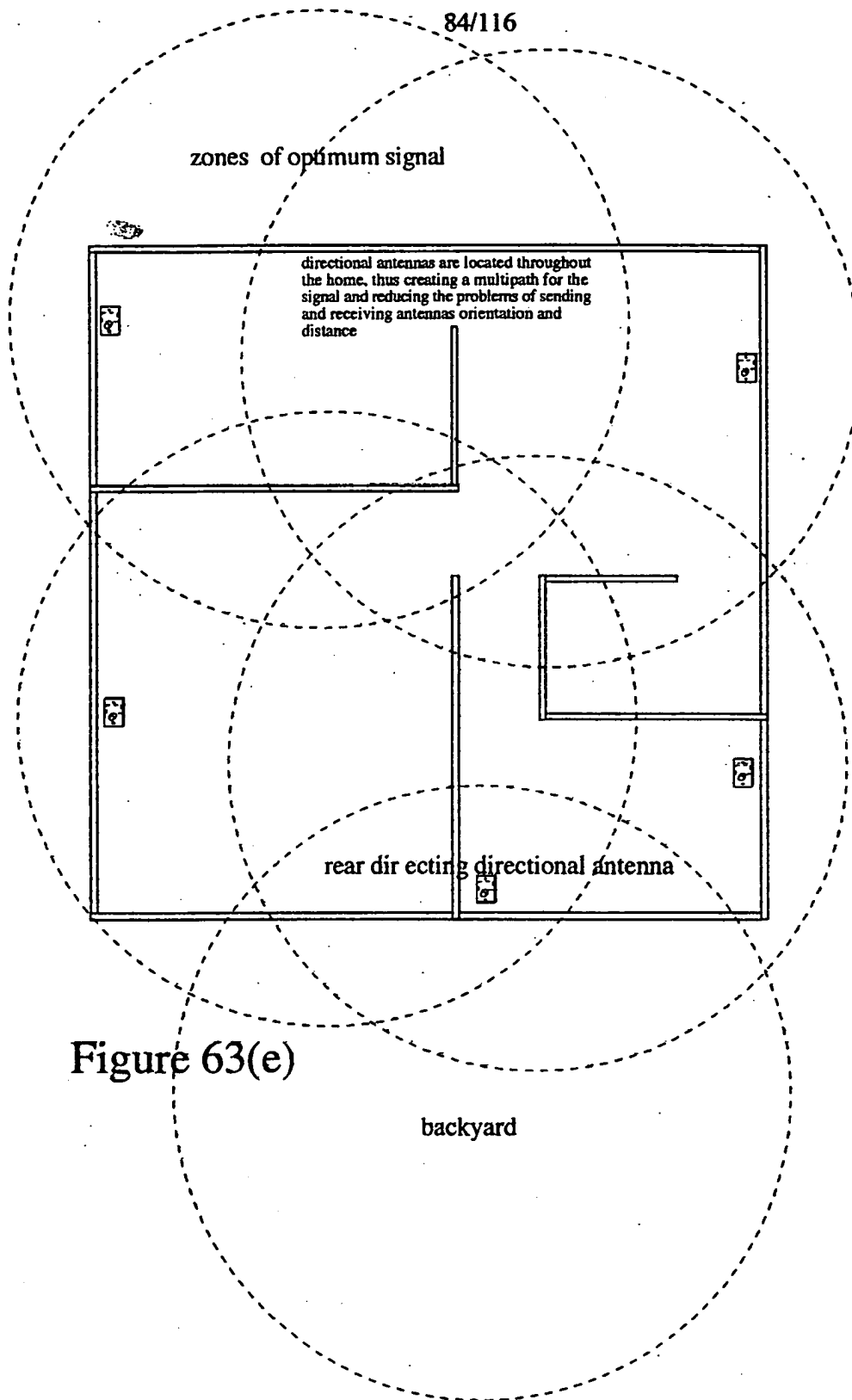


Figure 63(e)

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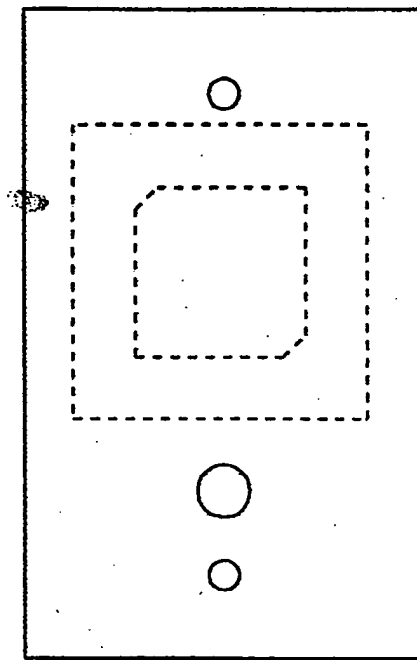


Figure 64(a)

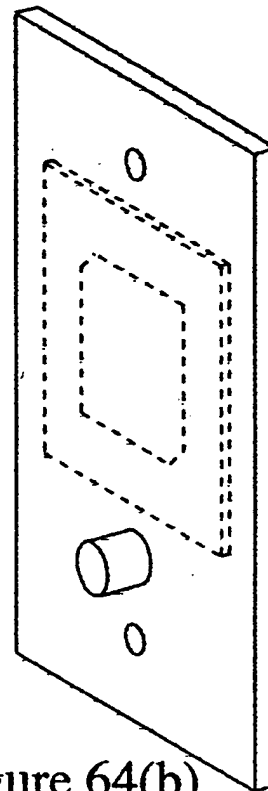


Figure 64(b)

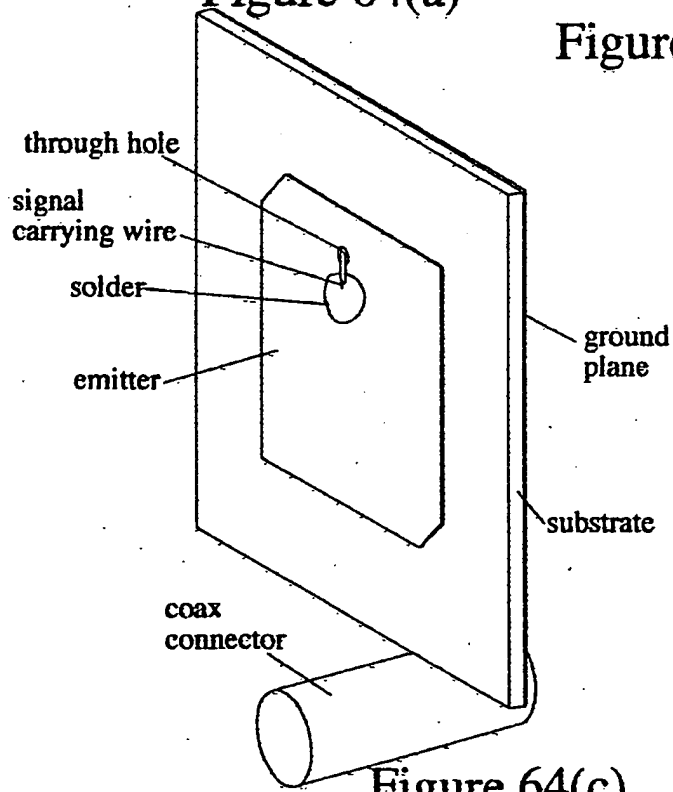


Figure 64(c)

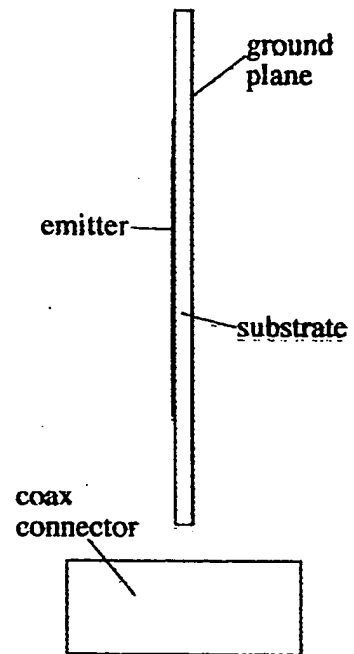


Figure 64(d)

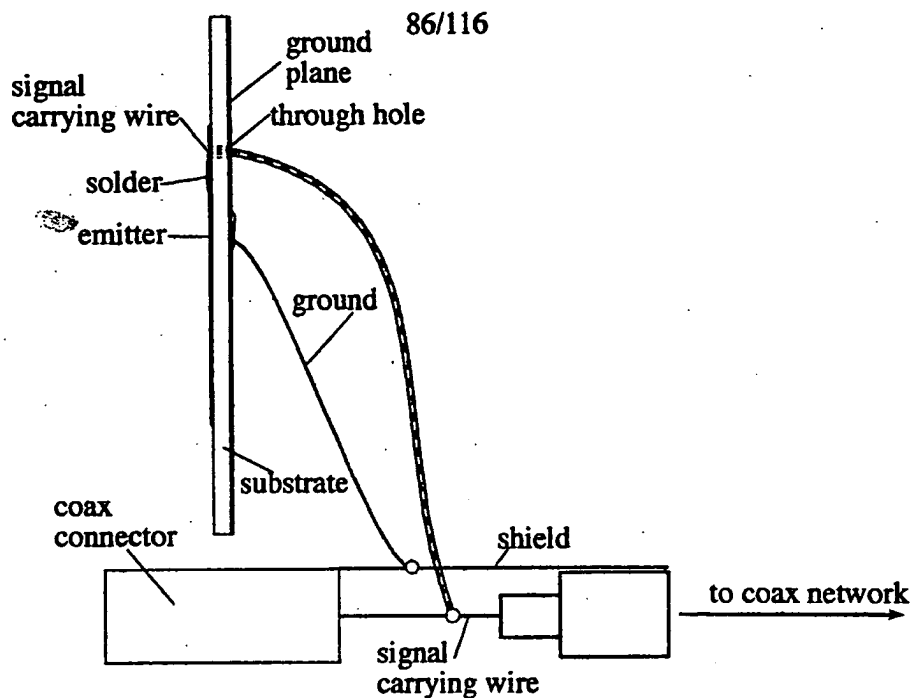
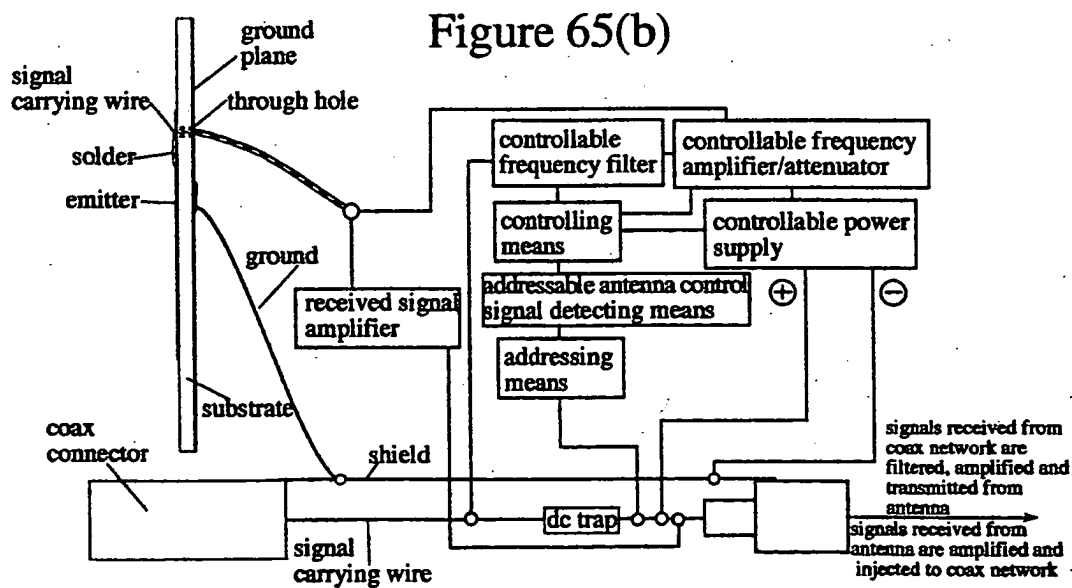


Figure 65(a)



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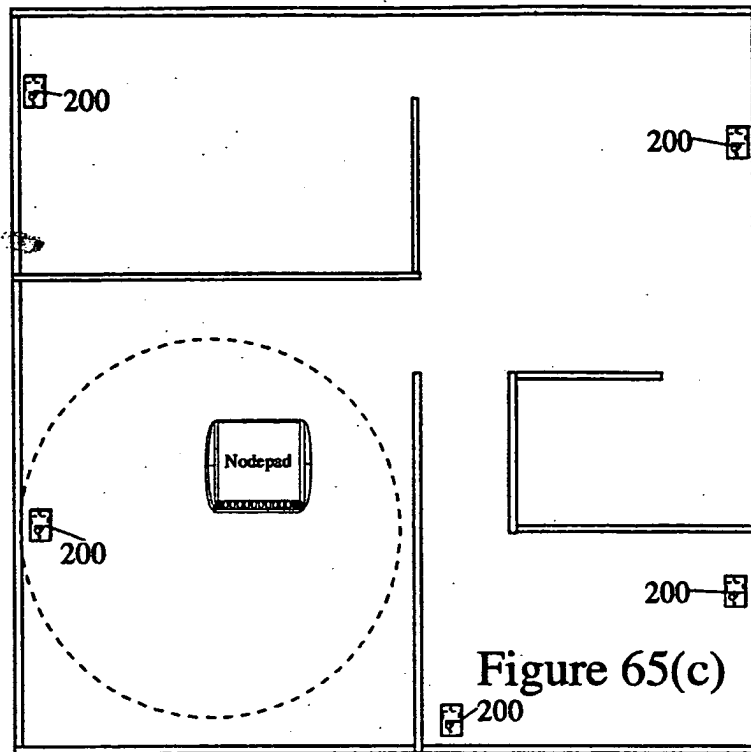


Figure 65(c)

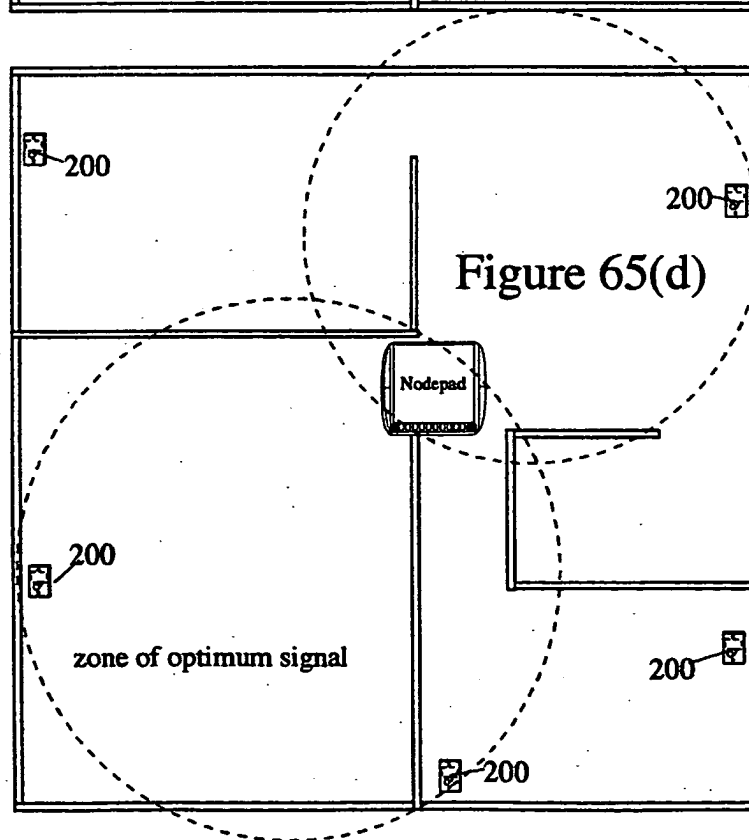


Figure 65(d)

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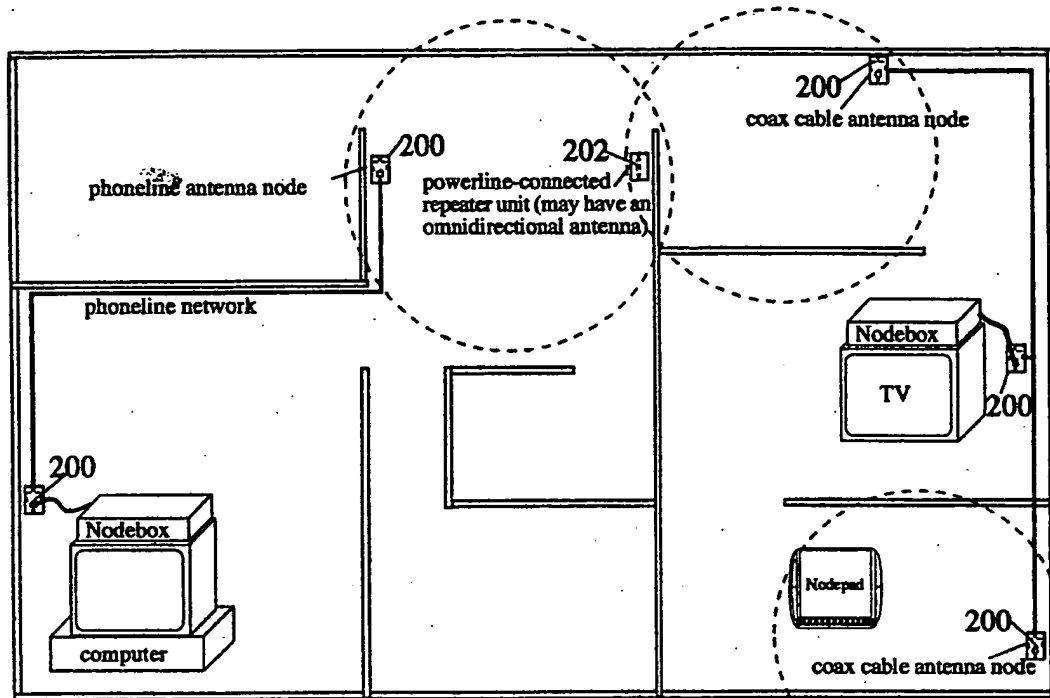


Figure 65(e)

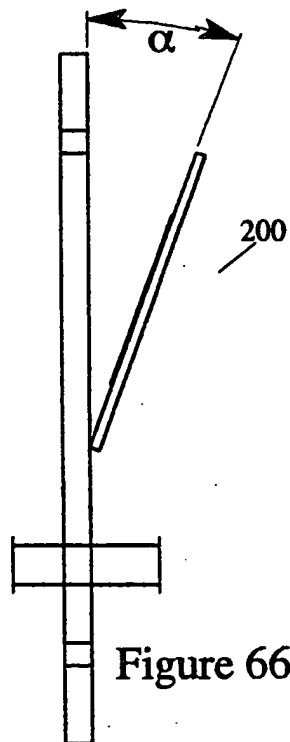


Figure 66(a)

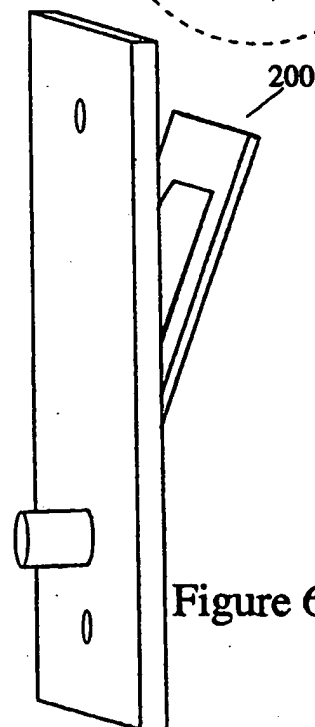


Figure 66(b)

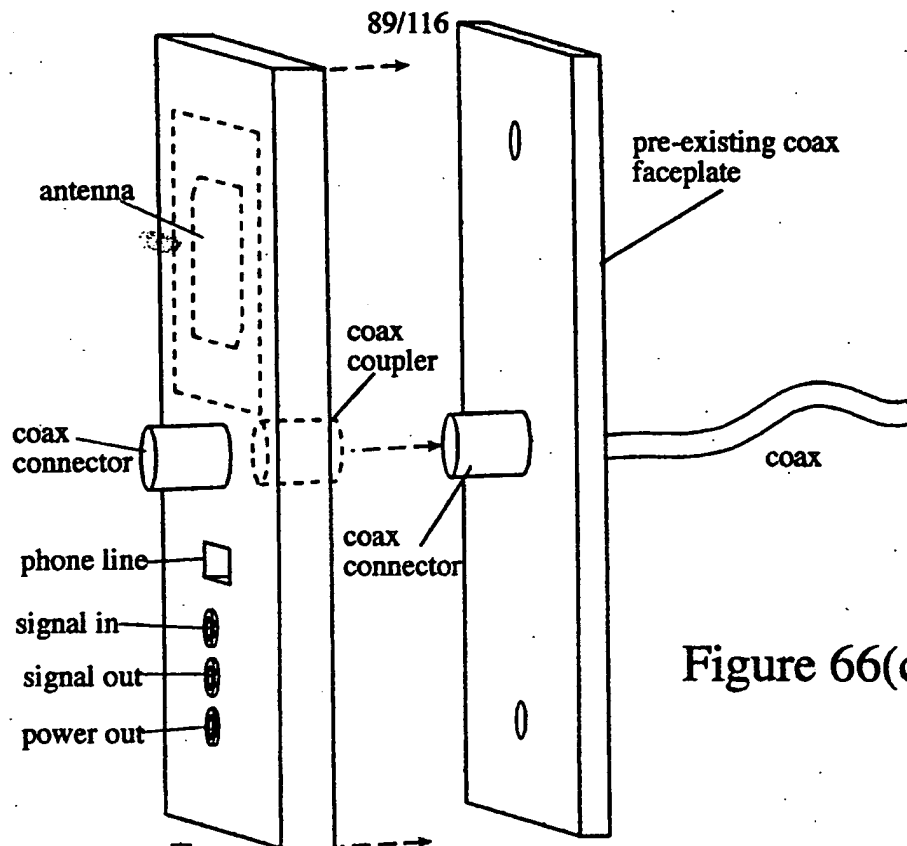


Figure 66(c)

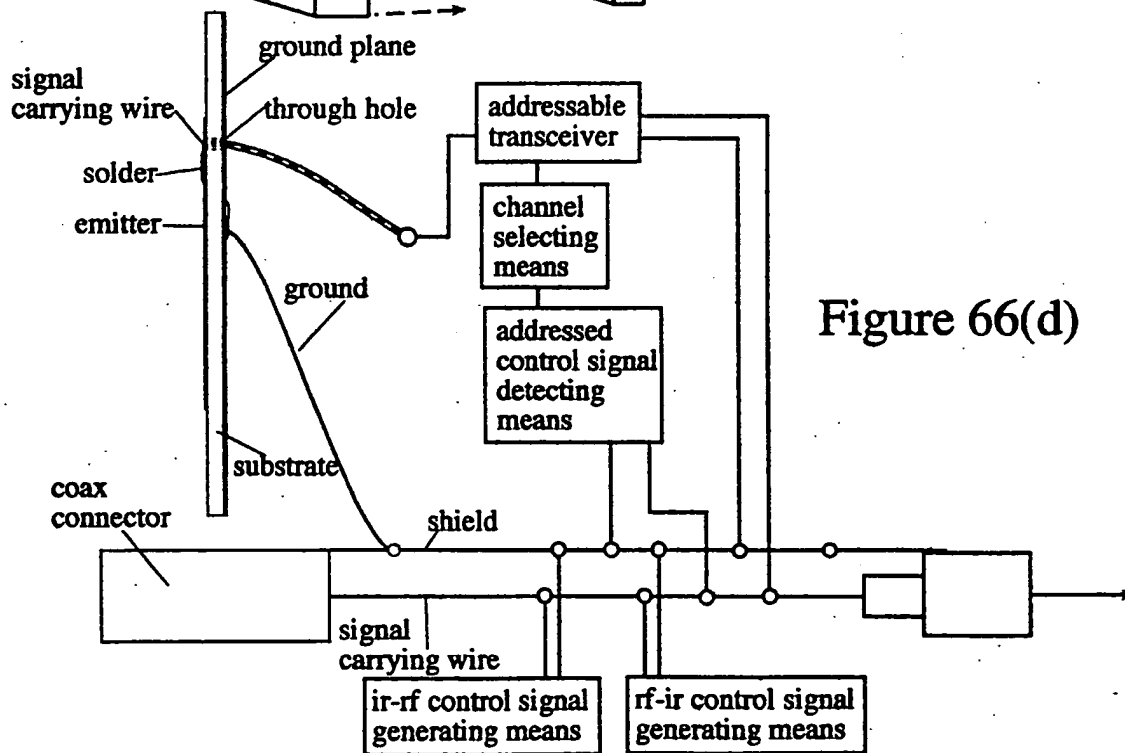


Figure 66(d)

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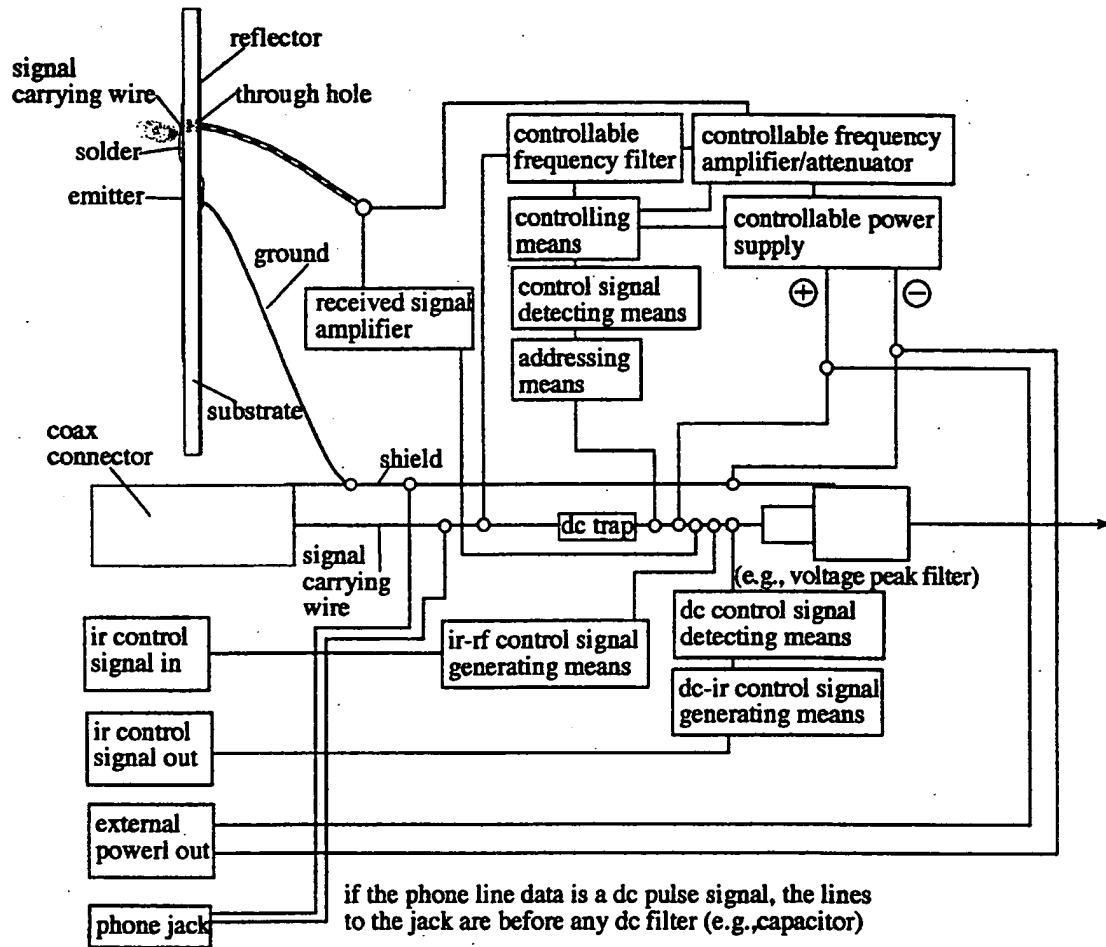


Figure 66(e)

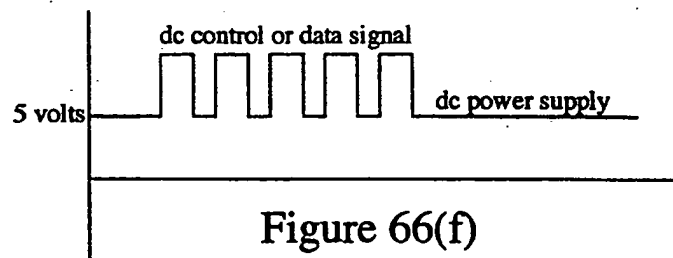


Figure 66(f)

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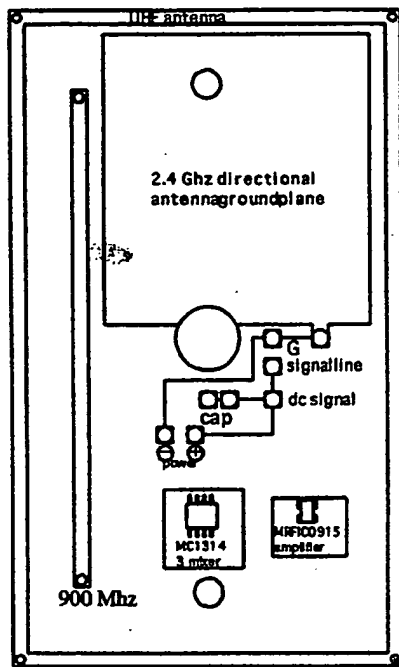


Figure 66(g)

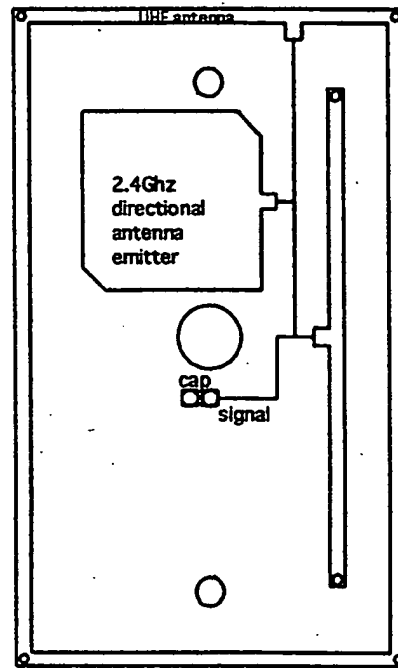


Figure 66(h)

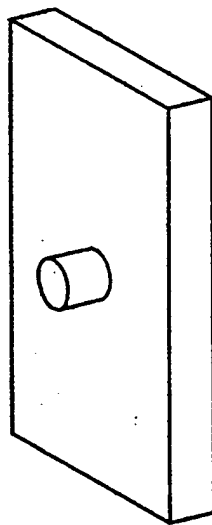


Figure 66(i)

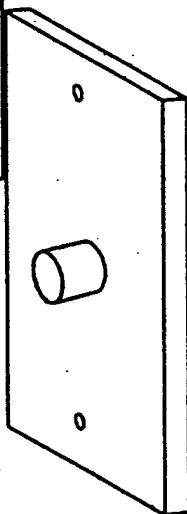


Figure 66(k)

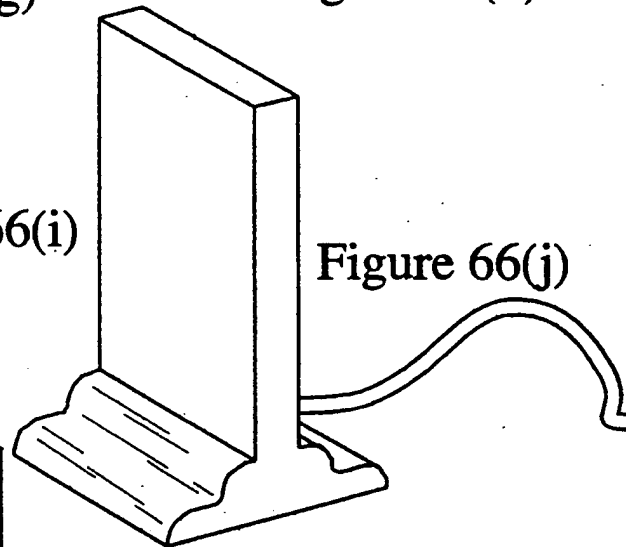


Figure 66(j)

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Prototype Construction

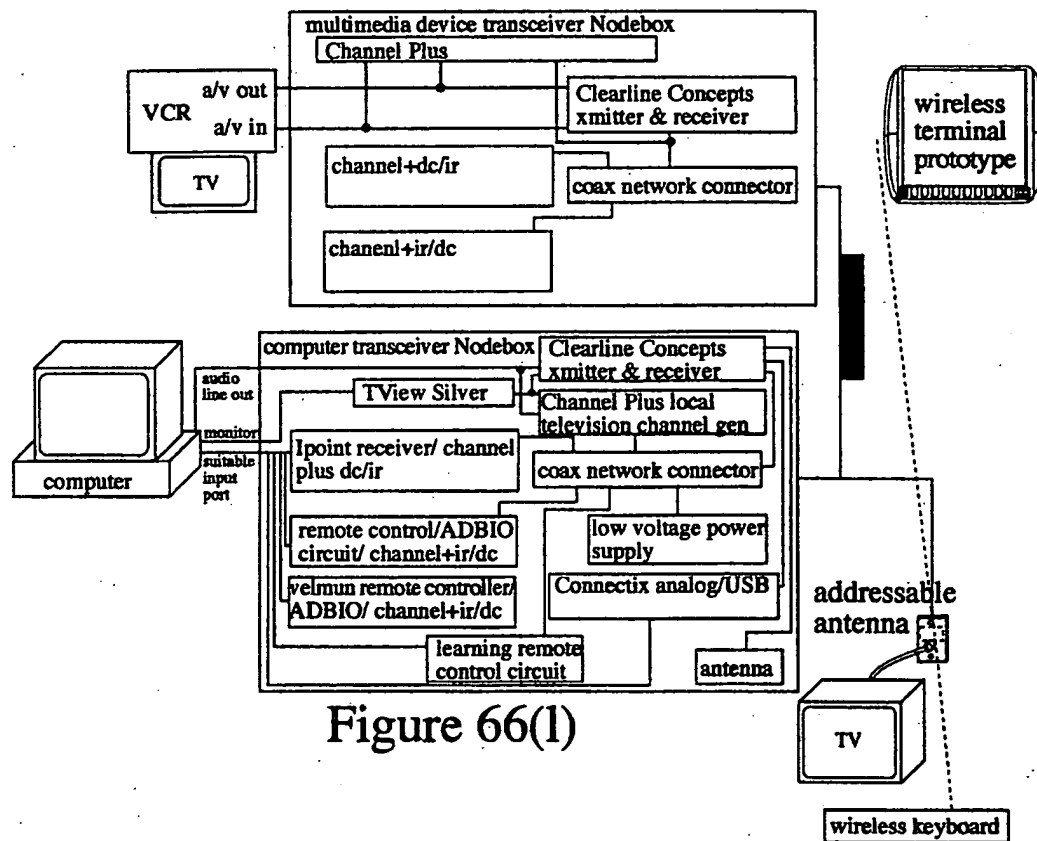


Figure 66(1)

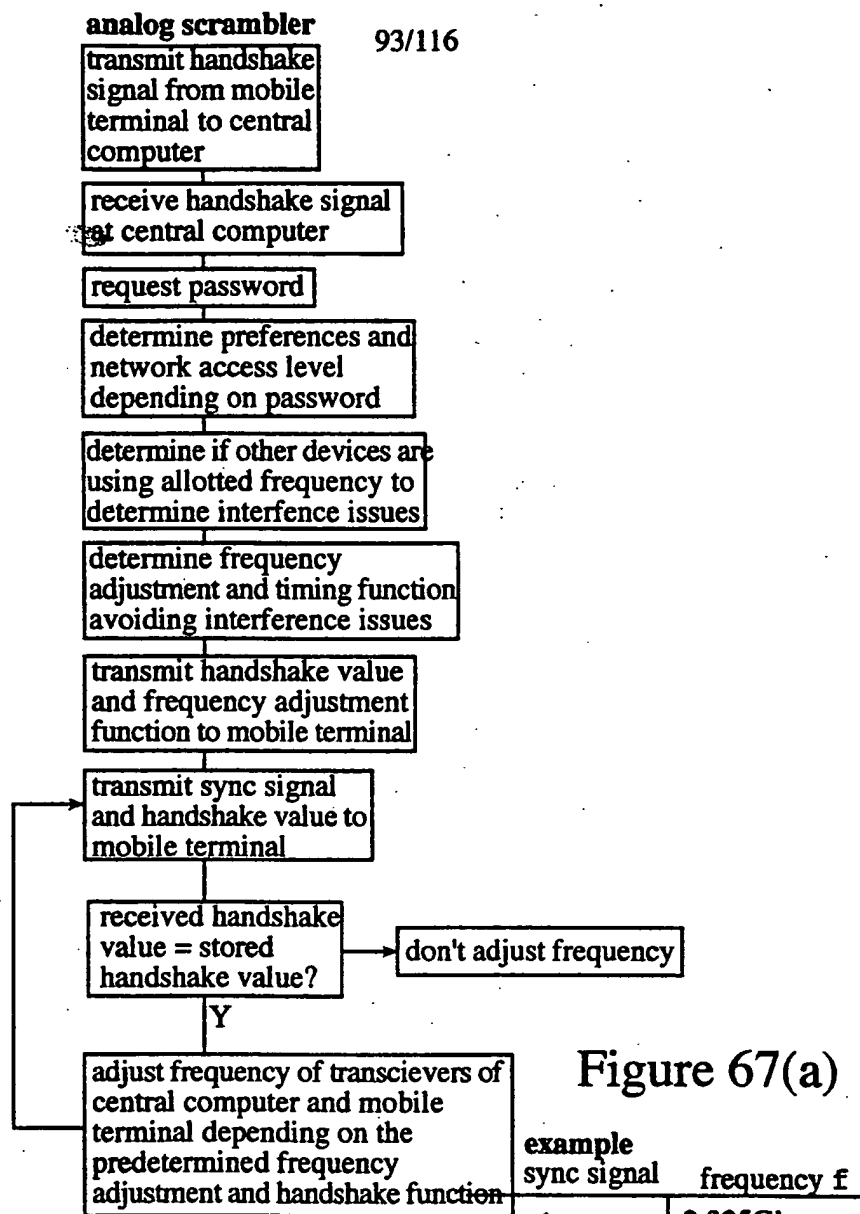


Figure 67(a)

Figure 67(b)

example sync signal	frequency f
1	2.325Ghz
2	2.475Ghz
3	2.210Ghz
4	2.505Ghz
5	2.315Ghz
6	2.400Ghz
N	2.285Ghz

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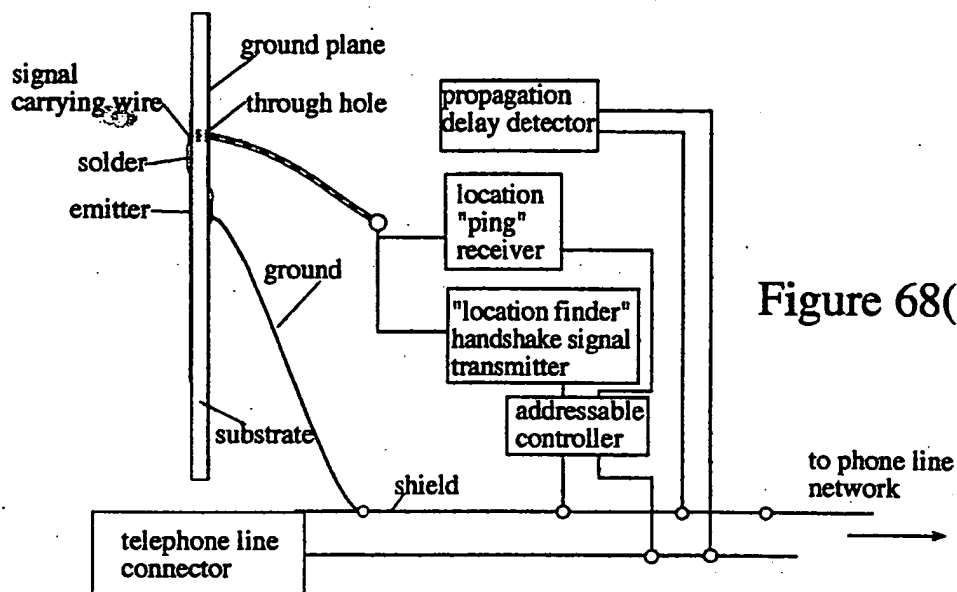


Figure 68(a)

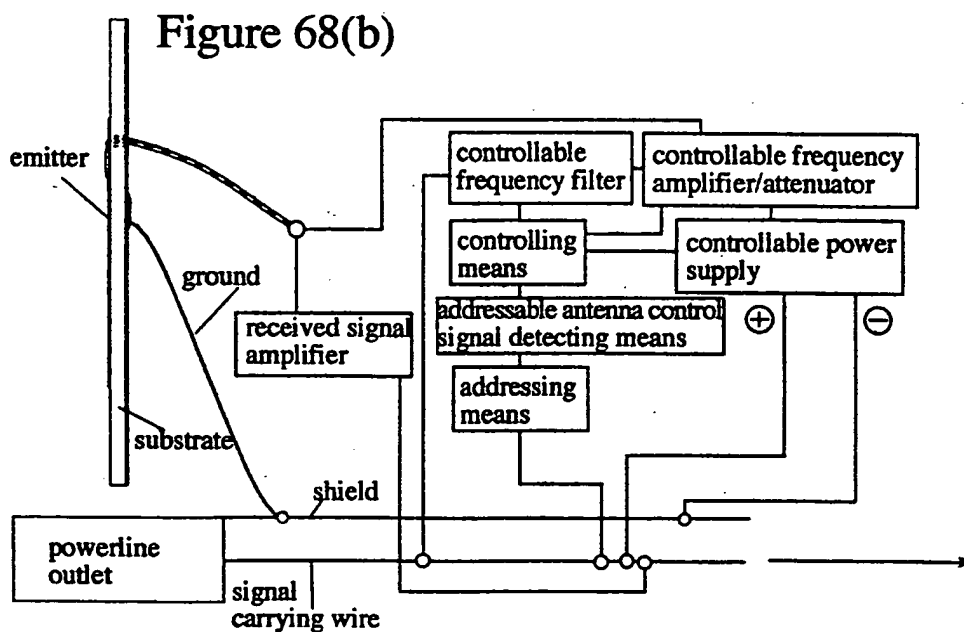


Figure 68(b)

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**Determining the appropriate signal power
transmitted from antenna nodes to a
Wireless Device within a network**

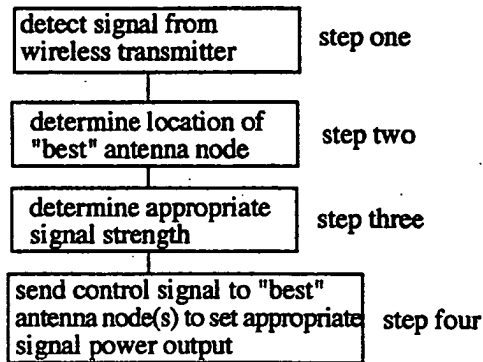


Figure 69(a)

**Determining the location of a
Wireless Device within a network
At Central Computer**

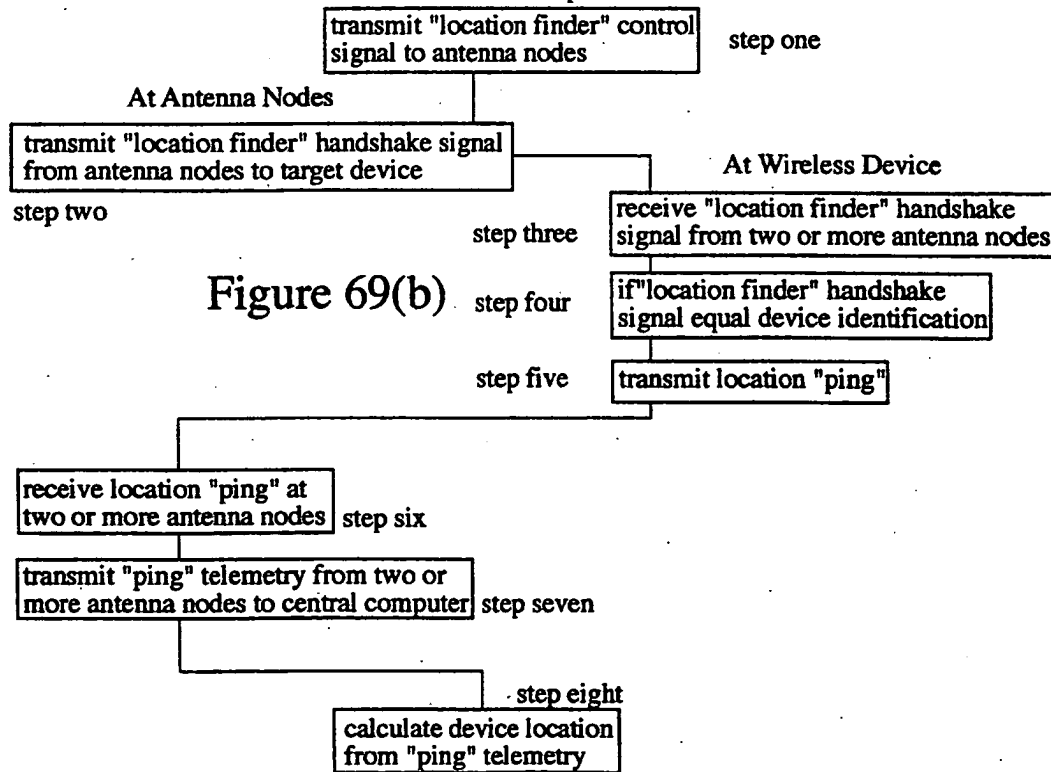


Figure 69(b)

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**Determining the appropriate signal power
transmitted from antenna nodes to a
Wireless Device within a network**

At Central Computer

transmit "location finder" control
signal to antenna nodes

step one

At Antenna Nodes

transmit "location finder" handshake signal
from antenna nodes to target device

step two

At Wireless Device

receive "location finder" handshake
signal from two or more antenna nodes

step three

step four

if "location finder" handshake
signal equal device identification

step five

transmit location "ping"

Figure 69(c)

receive location "ping" at
two or more antenna nodes

step six

transmit "ping" delay from two or more
antenna nodes to central computer

step seven

step eight

determine appropriate
signal strength

step nine

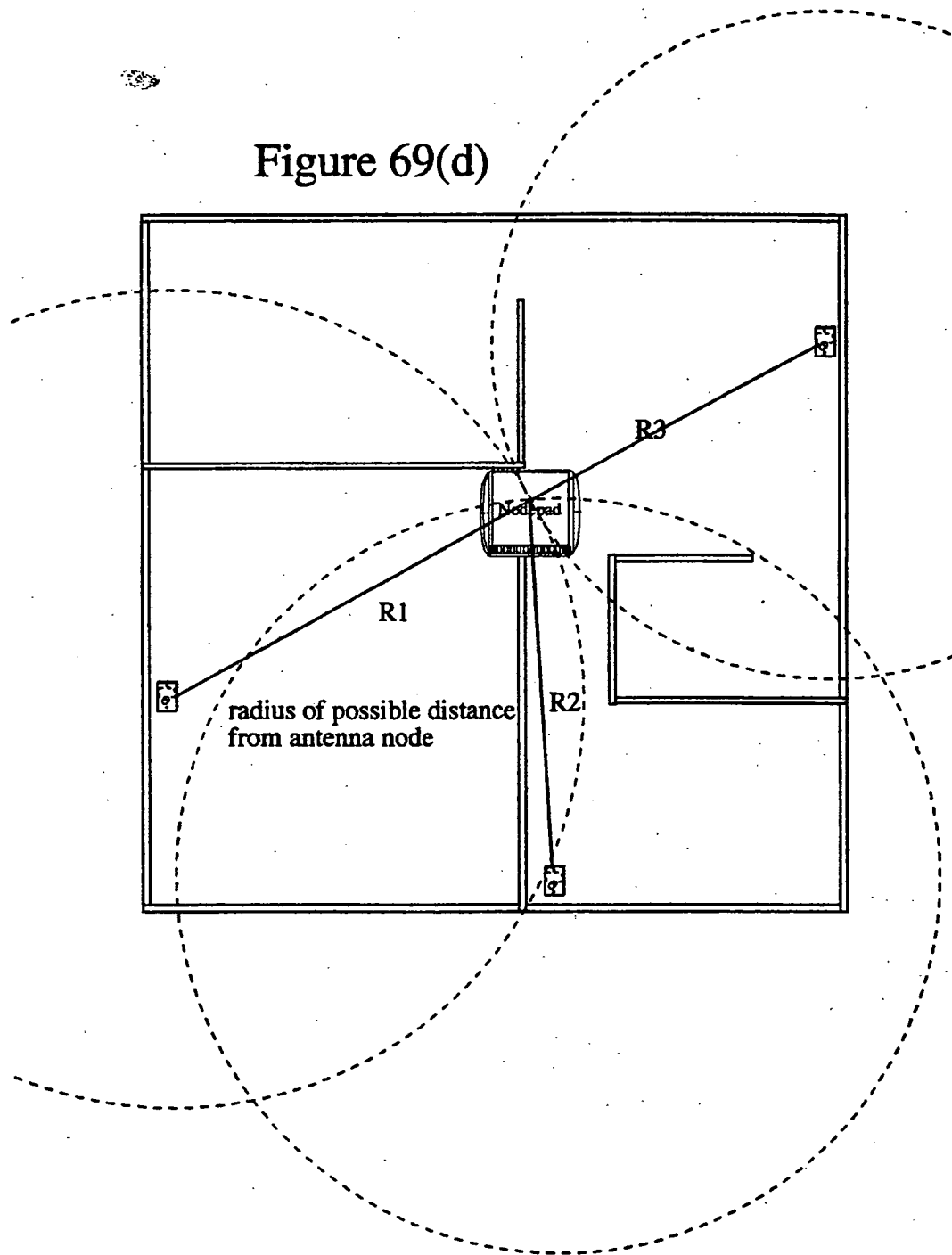
determine appropriate signal
strength for each antenna node

step ten

send control signal to antenna
node to set appropriate signal
power output

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Figure 69(d)



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Using frame buffer to prevent disruption of video signal

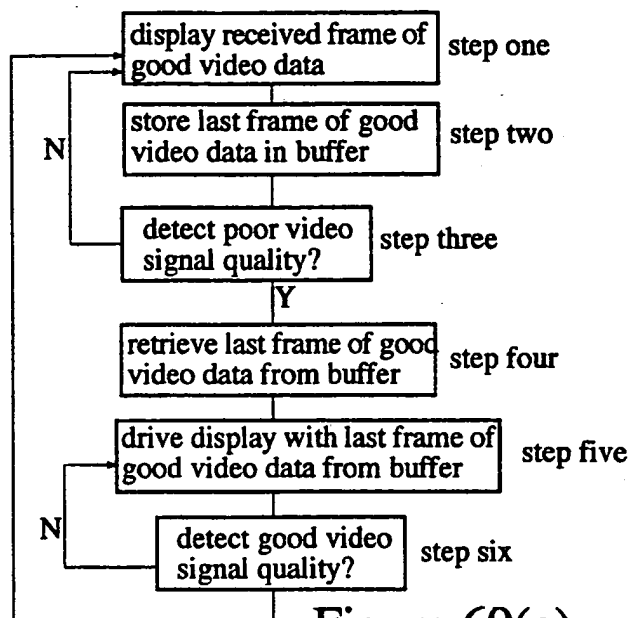


Figure 69(e)

Compensating for microwave oven interference

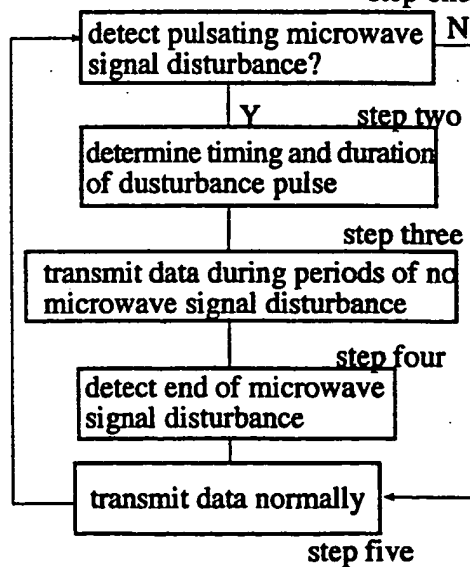


Figure 69(f)

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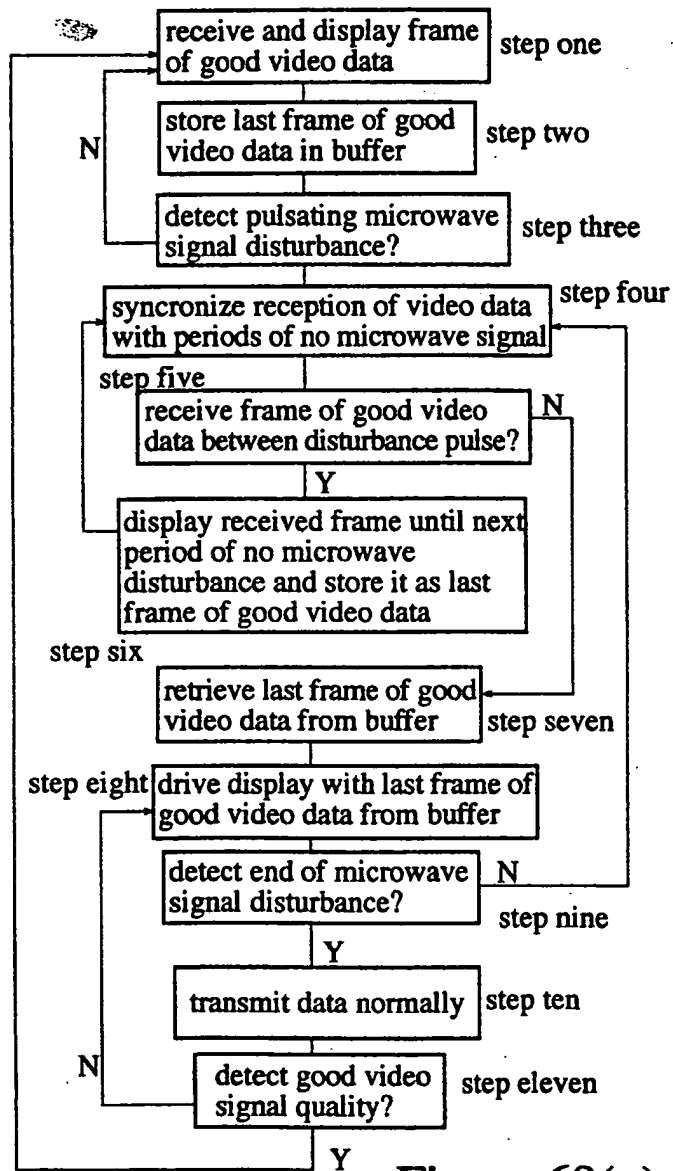
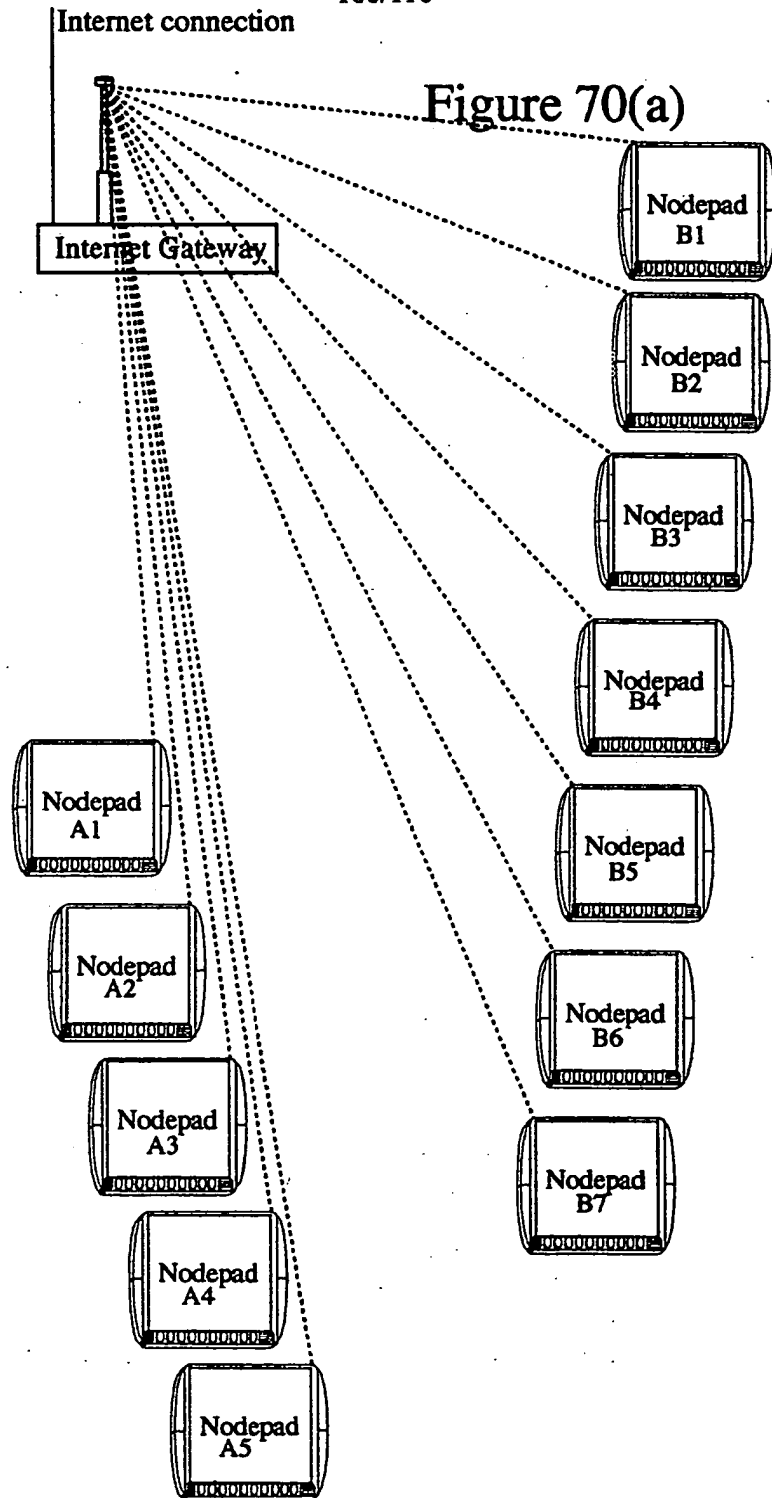
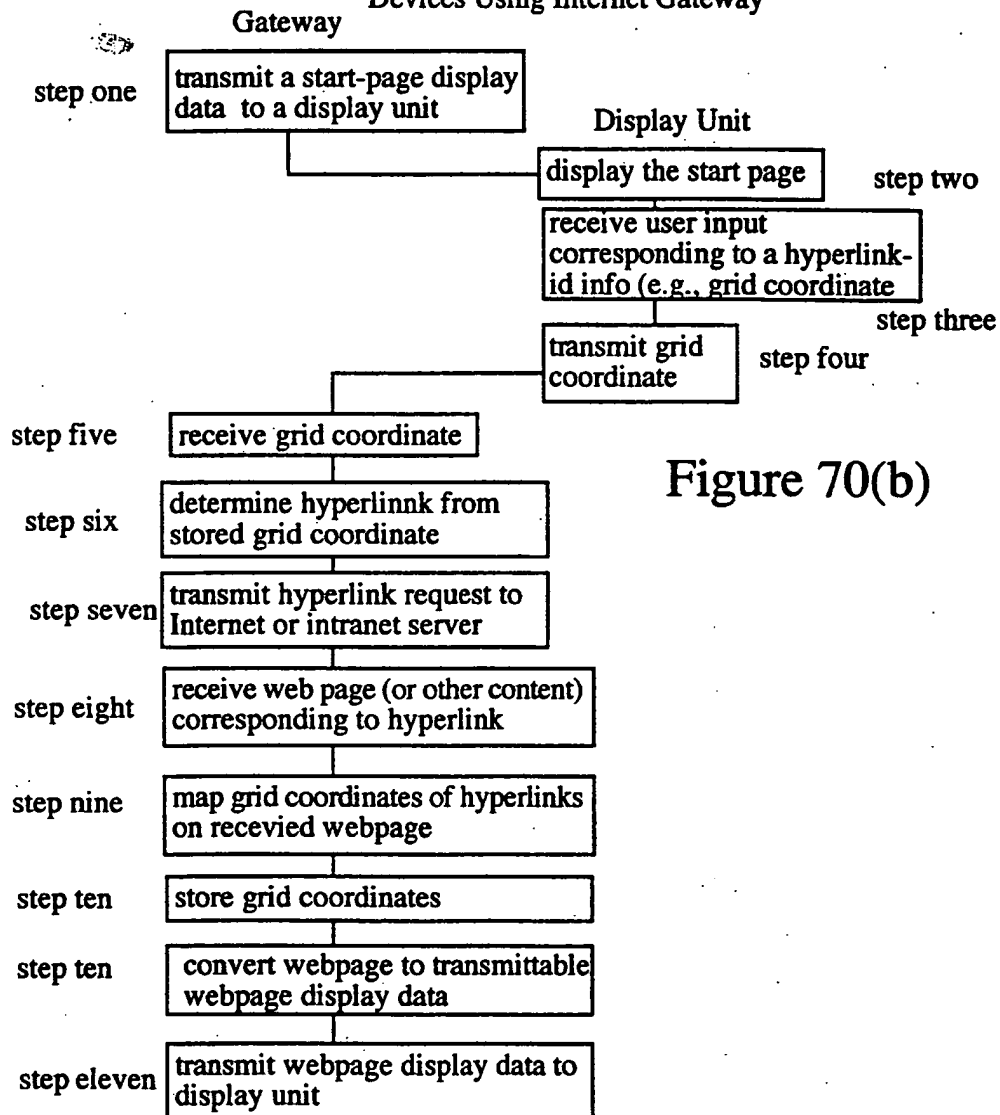


Figure 69(g)

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Web Browsing on Remote Display
Devices Using Internet Gateway

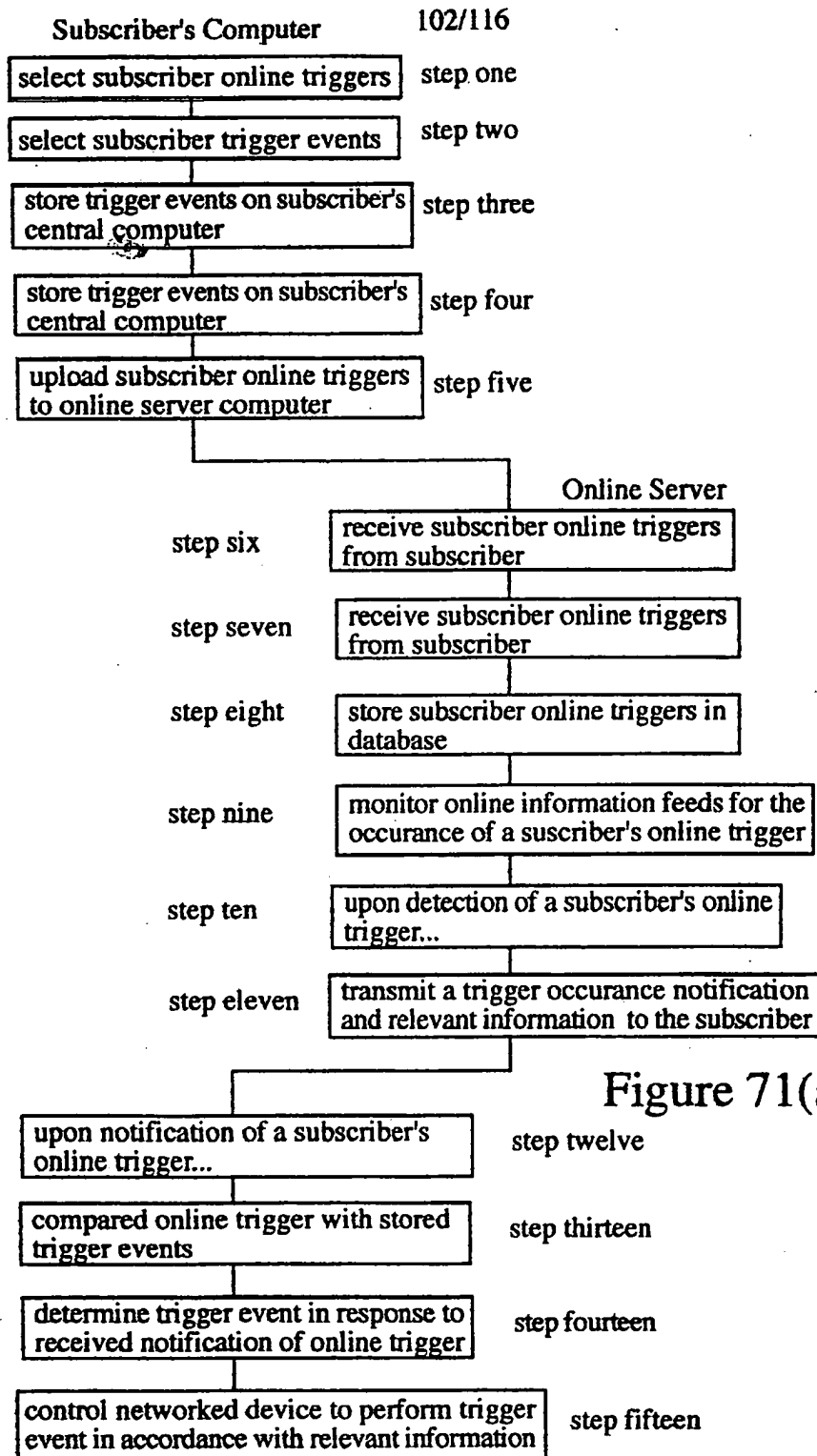


Figure 71(a)

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select subscriber online triggers

Trigger No:	Trigger Type:	Trigger:	Notification Method:	Online Info. Source:	Recurrence:
1	stock price	Apple Computer at 50	Instant message-type notification	NASDAQ online stock ticker	once, then ask for new price
2	television program	show with John Wayne	email-type notification	Online program guide	month, then check to confirm
3	email	email from partner	Instant message-type notification	subscriber's ISP mail server	always, until reset
4	Internet phone call	phone call from mom	Instant message-type notification	subscriber's Internet phone service	always, until reset
5	weather alert	severe weather imminent in Seymour CT	Instant message-type notification	NOAH online weather service	always

Figure 71(b)

select subscriber trigger events

Trigger No:	Trigger:	Trigger Event
1	Apple Computer at 50	open browser to Yahoo.com; do online news search with keywords ("Apple Computer", stock, price, "earnings report") occurring within one day; open second browser to Etrade.com; put local computer channel in PIP on television in home office; send page to pager with message "Apple at 50";
2	show with John Wayne	get channel, time, duration and date information from email notification; control VCR in bedroom to record show; put show reminder in daily schedule for day show airs and day after recording;
3	email from partner	search email for priority; if priority equals "highest" put email in PIP on all display devices; ring phone with "urgent email" ring; if priority equals "lowest" leave email on ISP mail server
4	phone call from mom	put caller-id notification in PIP on all displays that are on; if called not answered by third ring, roll to cell phone; if call not answer by third cell phone ring, perform answering machine function and record message, send page with message "mom called" + date
5	severe weather imminent in Seymour CT	turn all displays on; turn volume on all display to 3/4; open web page NOAH.com/newhaven.ct/; open computer TV application; tune computer TV tuner to weather channel; compose weather channel and browser to split screen; switch all displays to local television program

Figure 71(c)

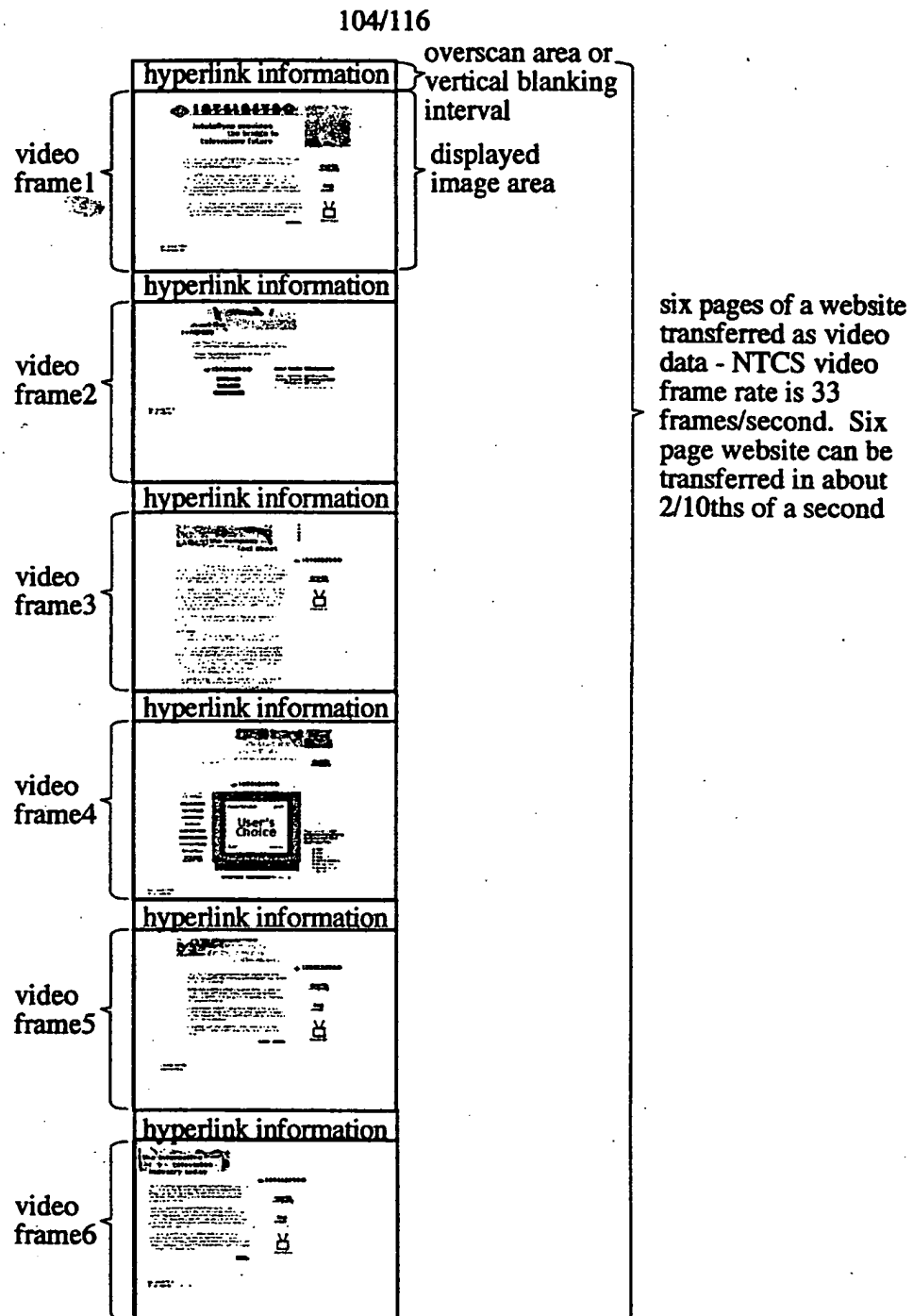


Figure 72(a)

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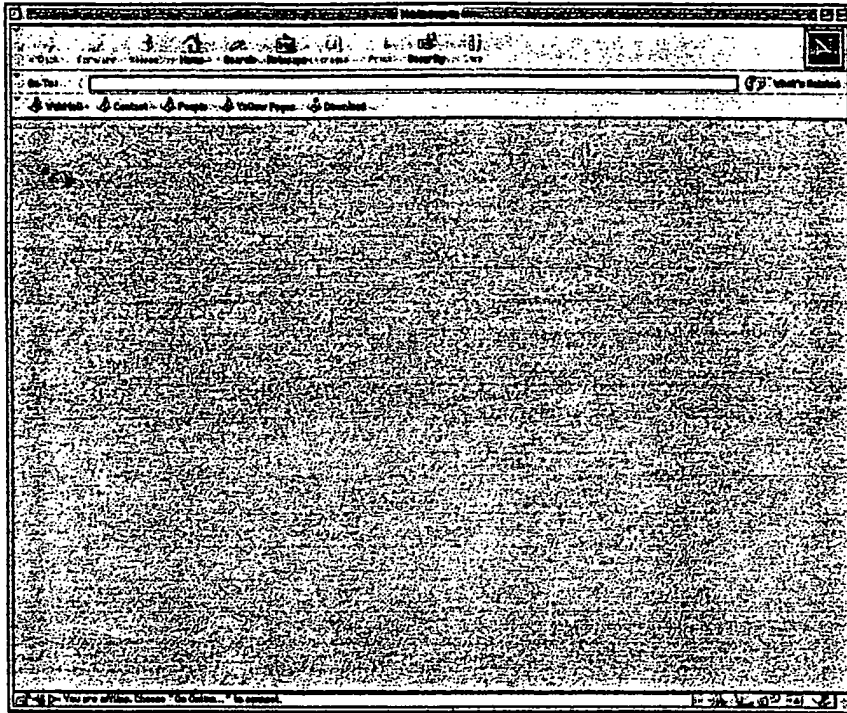


Figure 72(b)

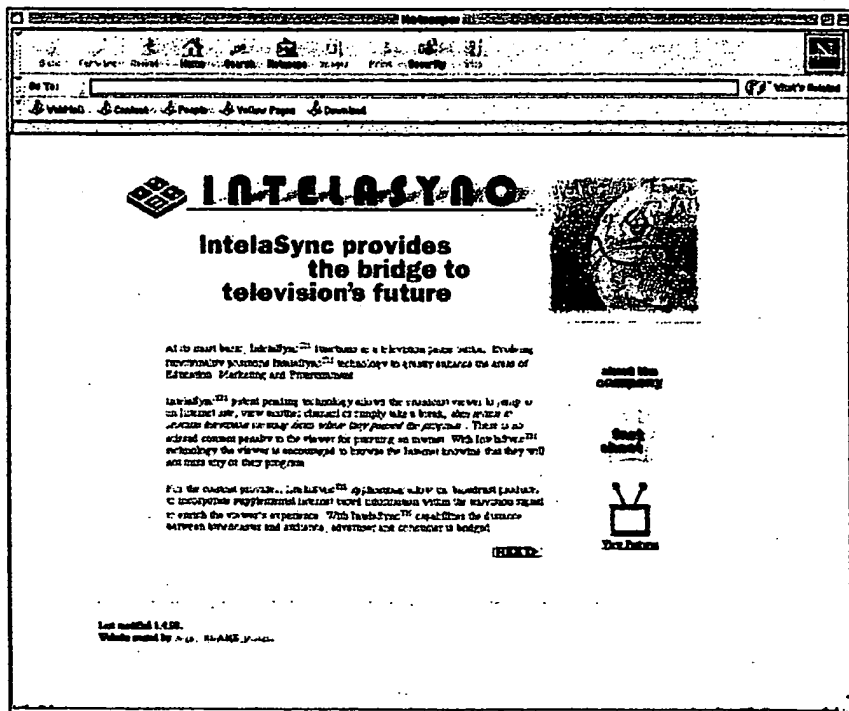



Figure 72(c)

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Page Data:			
Page Title:	page location: videoA1 frame1		
Link Data:			
Link Title:	image location:	linked to:	operation:
about them company	486,324;509,356	videoA1 frame2	goto linked page
fact sheet	398,376;550,431	videoA1 frame3	goto linked page
view features	498,444;547,521	videoA1 frame4	goto linked page
next	385,513;436,526	videoA1 frame5	goto linked page
pointblank design	169,603;276,619	nycs8@aol.com	open new email; connect to WWW



INTELASYNC

**IntelASync provides
the bridge to
television's future**

At its most basic, IntelASync™ functions as a television pause button. Evolving functionality positions IntelASync™ technology to greatly enhance the areas of Education, Marketing and Entertainment.

IntelASync™ patent pending technology allows the broadcast viewer to jump to an Internet site, view another channel or simply take a break. *then return to resume television viewing from where they paused the program.* There is no missed content penalty to the viewer for pursuing an interest. With IntelASync™ technology the viewer is encouraged to browse the Internet knowing that they will not miss any of their program.

For the content provider, IntelASync™ applications allow the broadcast producer to incorporate supplemental Internet based information within the television signal to enrich the viewer's experience. With IntelASync™ capabilities the distance between broadcaster and audience, advertiser and consumer is bridged.



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603

276,
619

486,
324

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376

550,
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444

547,
521

513,
436,
526

Last modified 1-4-98

Website owned by **POINT BLANK DESIGN**

Figure 72(d)

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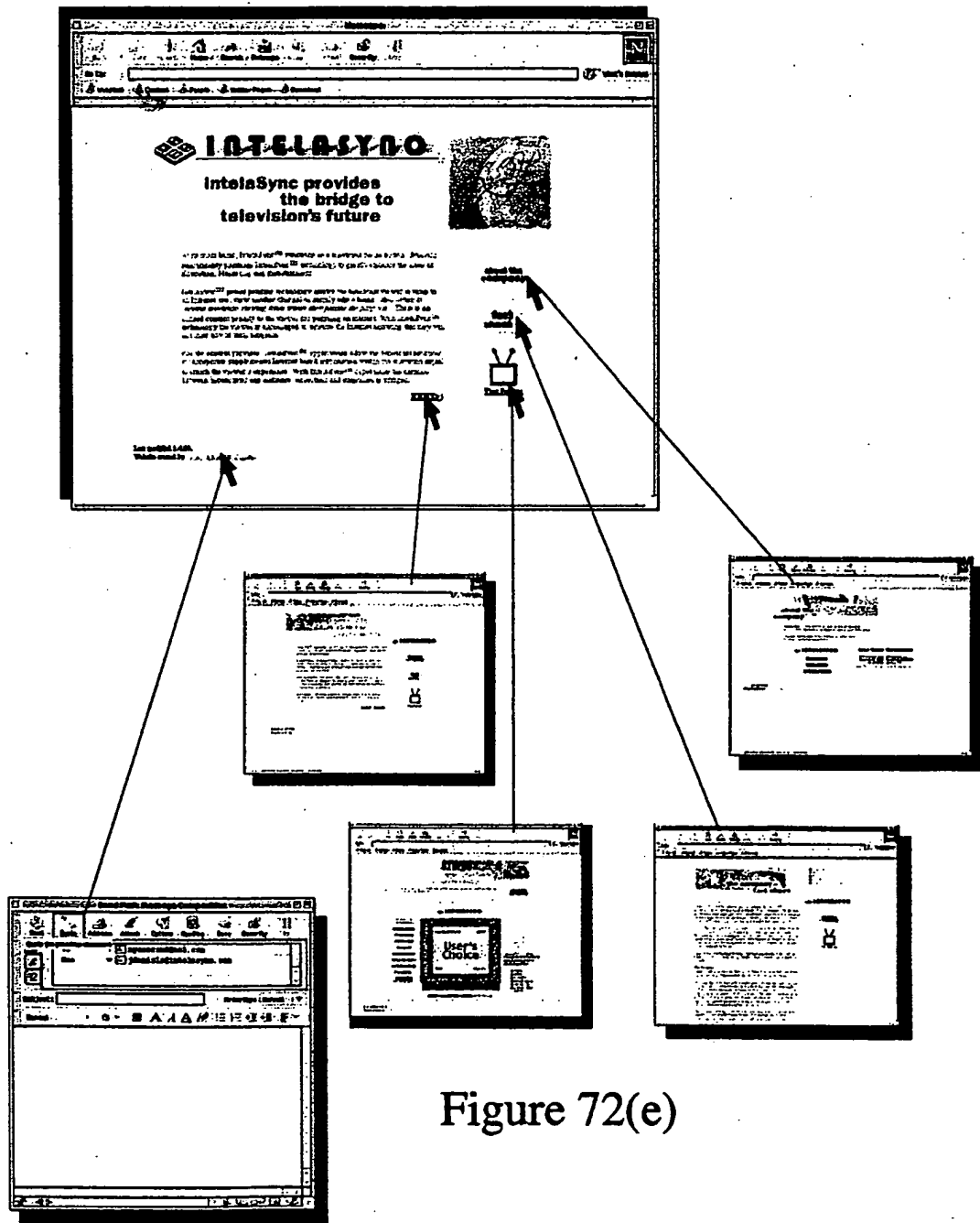


Figure 72(e)

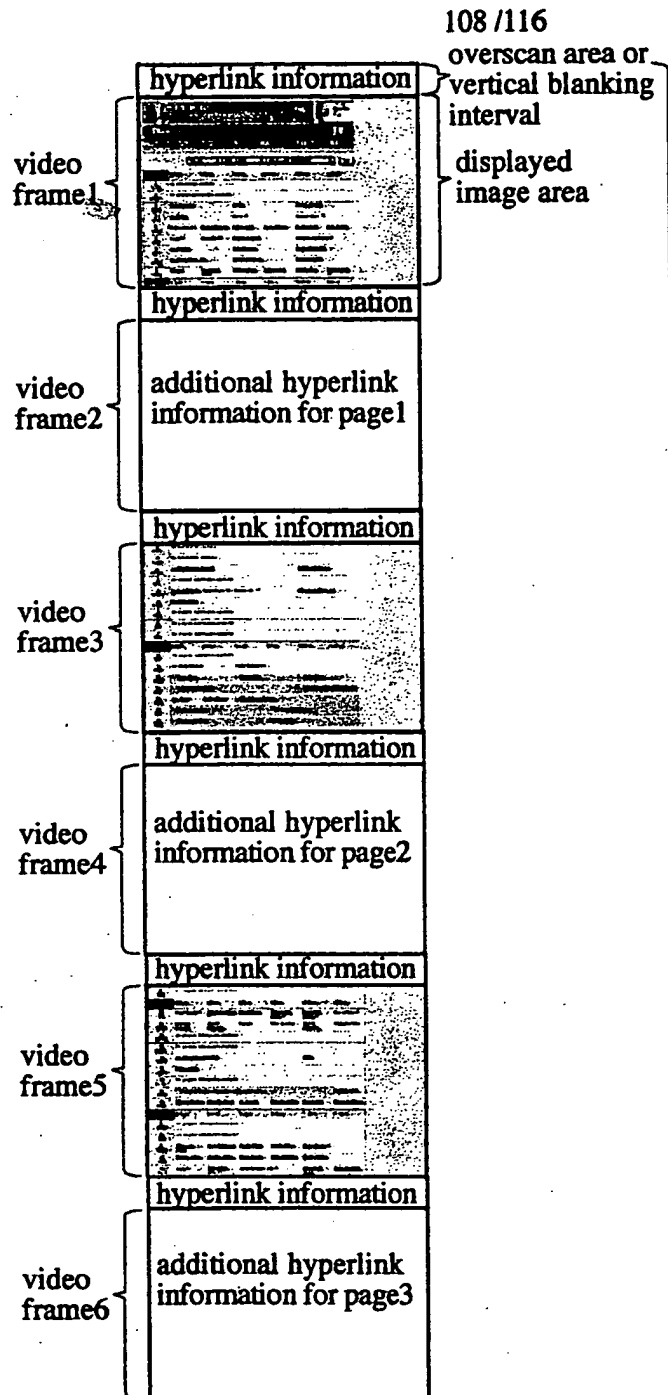


Figure 72(f)

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IntelaSync Logo	78,123;121,186	1	graphic
IntelaSync Text	150,32;121,186	2	graphic
Globe Graphic	512,137;662,271	3	graphic
Page Description	150,195;437,262	4	text
Company Description	118,301;513,504	5	text
Webmaster	86,597;172,612	6	text
Link Data:			
Link Title:	image location:	linked to:	operation:
about them company	486,324;509,356	videoA1 frame2	goto linked page
fact sheet	398,376;550,431	videoA1 frame3	goto linked page
view features	498,444;547,521	videoA1 frame4	goto linked page
next	385,513;436,526	videoA1 frame5	goto linked page
about the company	169,603;276,619	nycs8@aol.com	open new email; connect to WWW

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Figure 72(g)

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0010111011011000010101101010001111 binary value
 screen pixels

illustration of sending binary video data stream -
 using just the on-off state of the individual pixels

Figure 72(h)

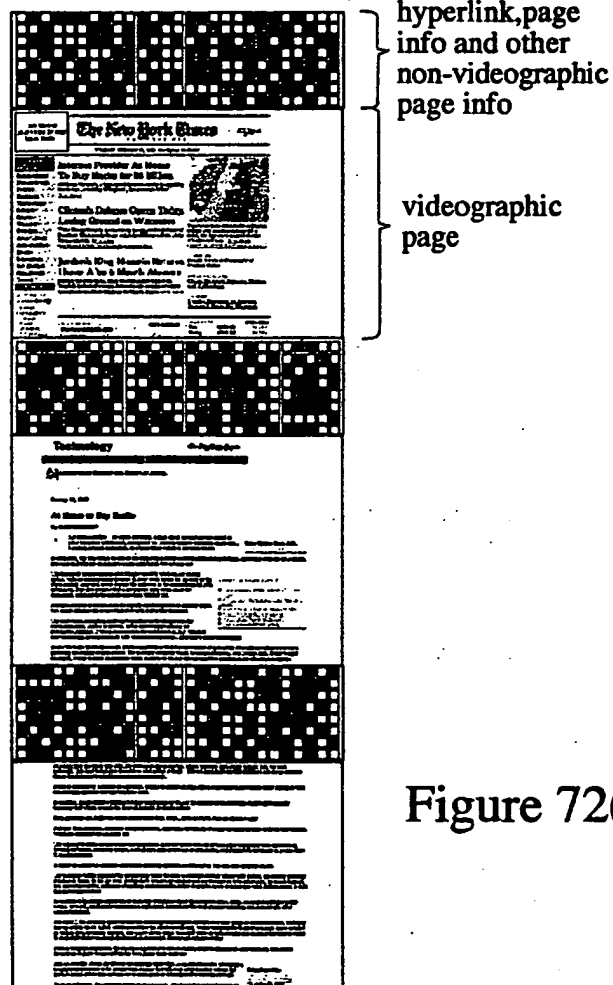
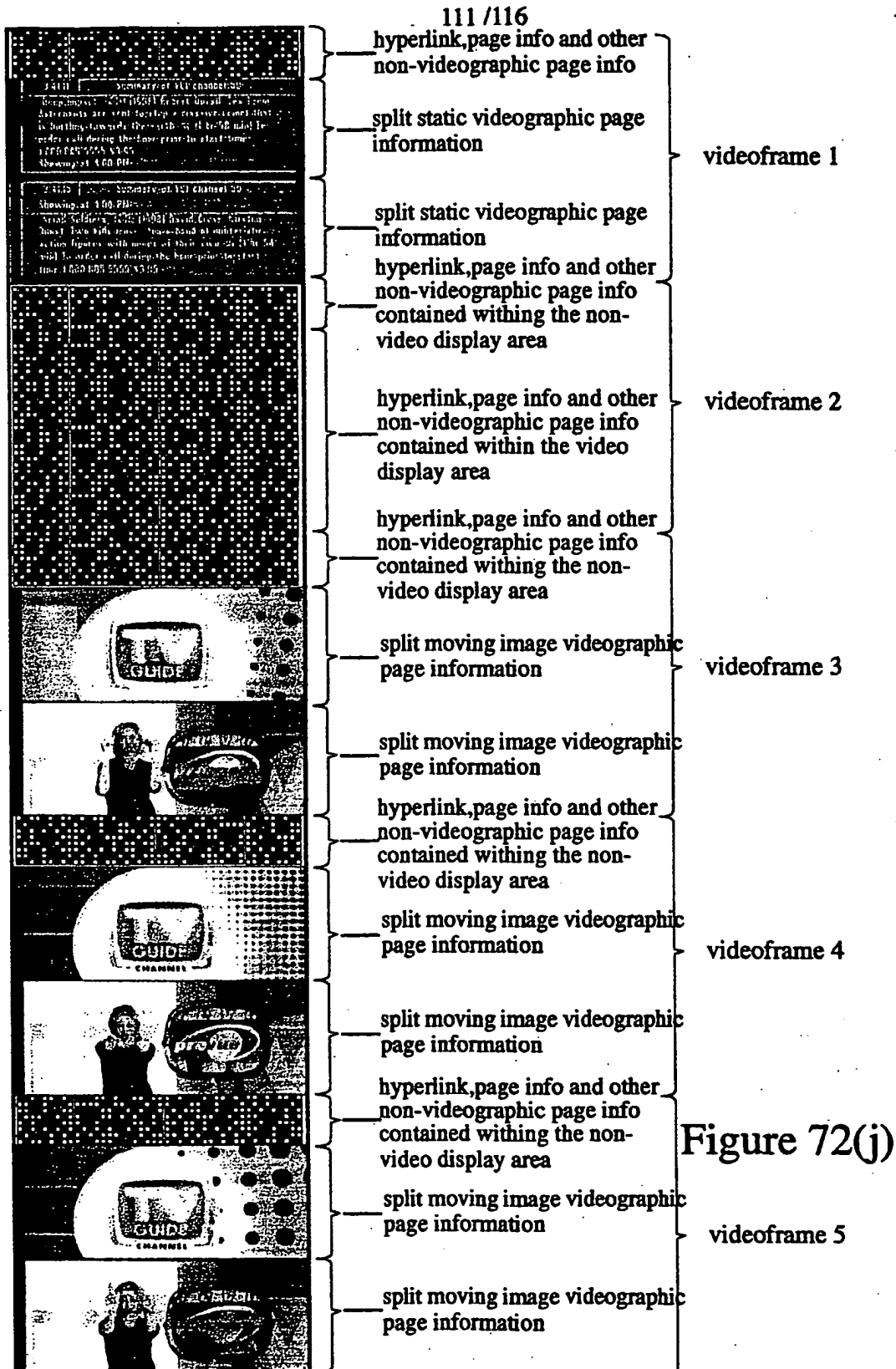


Figure 72(i)



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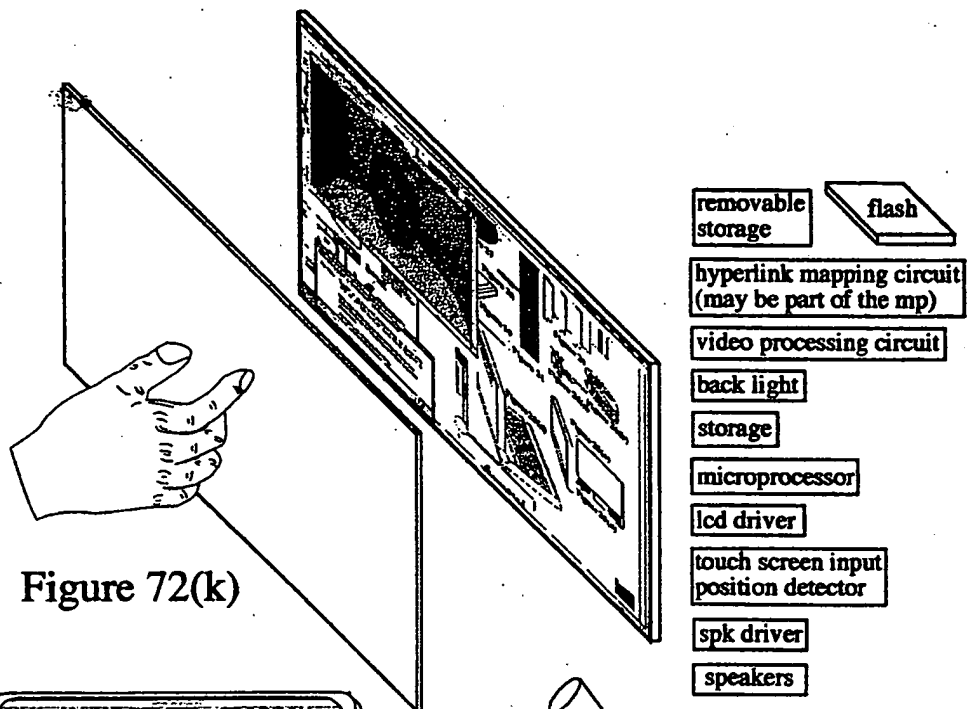


Figure 72(k)

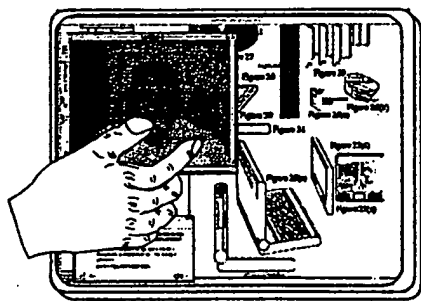
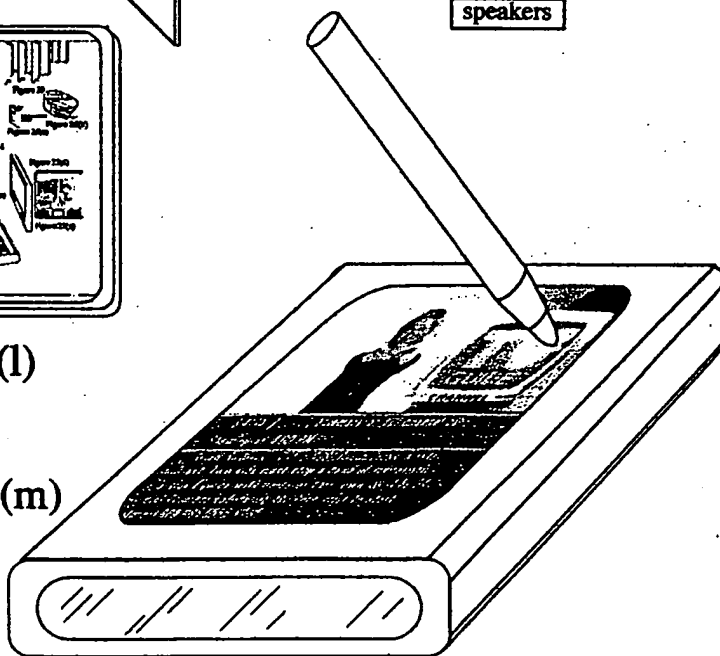


Figure 72(l)

Figure 72(m)



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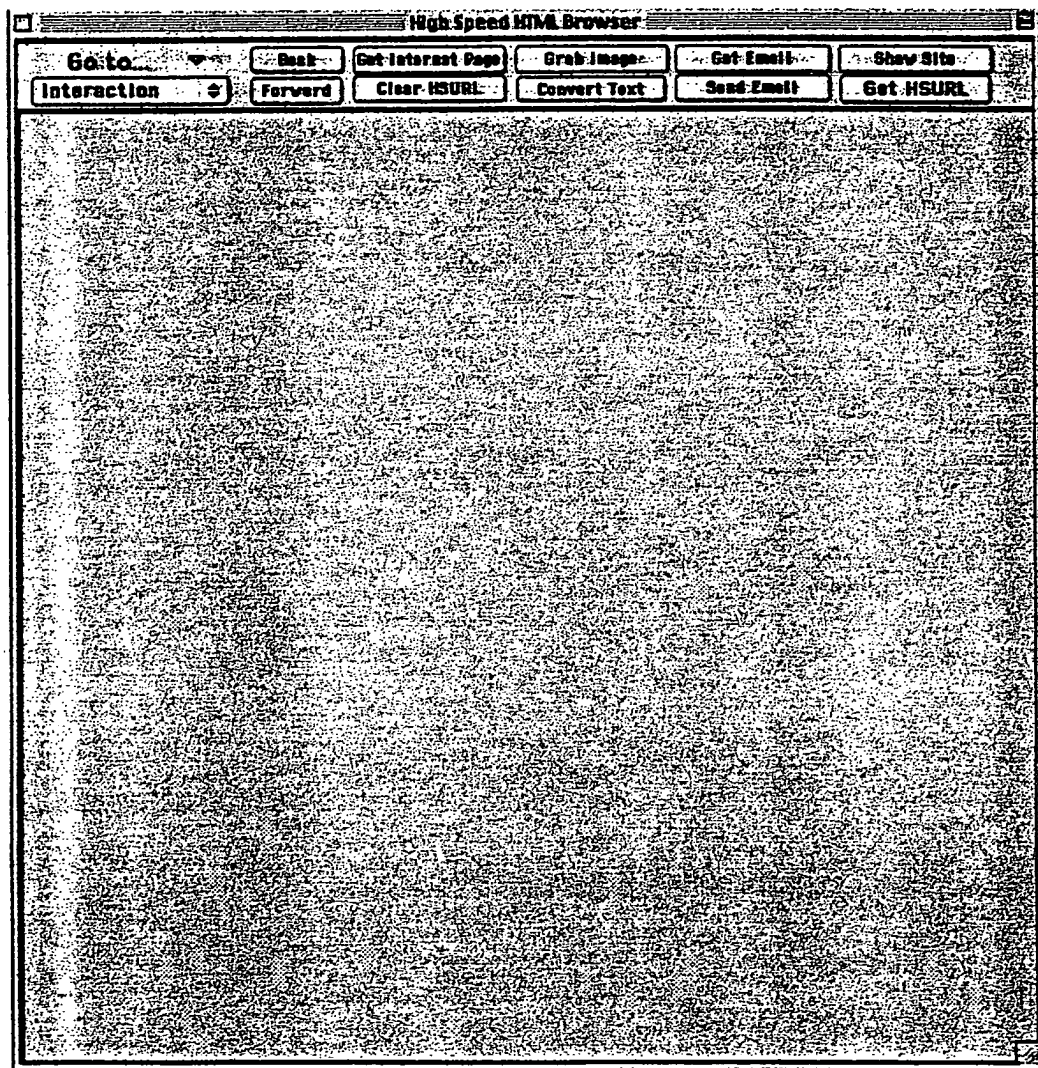


Figure 72(n)

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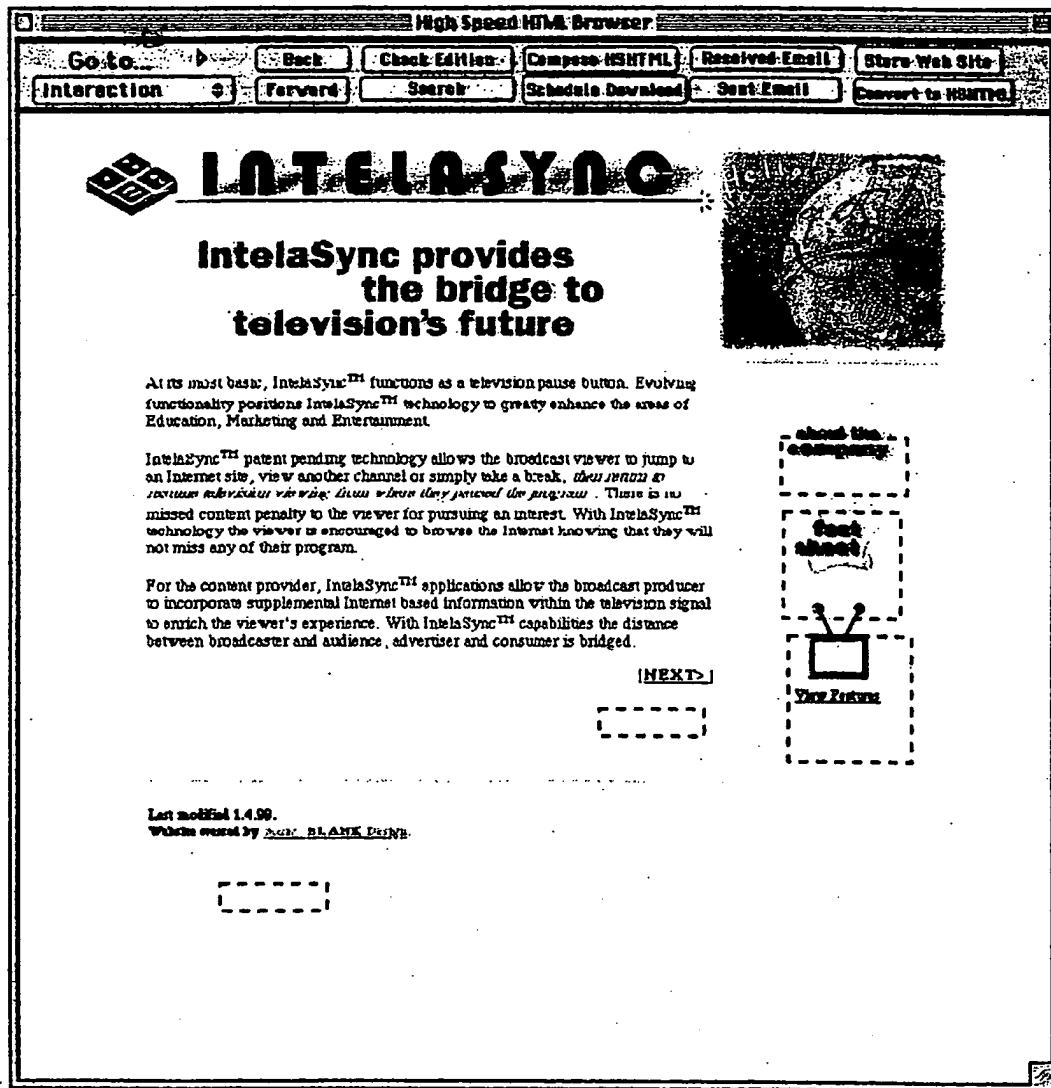


Figure 72(o)

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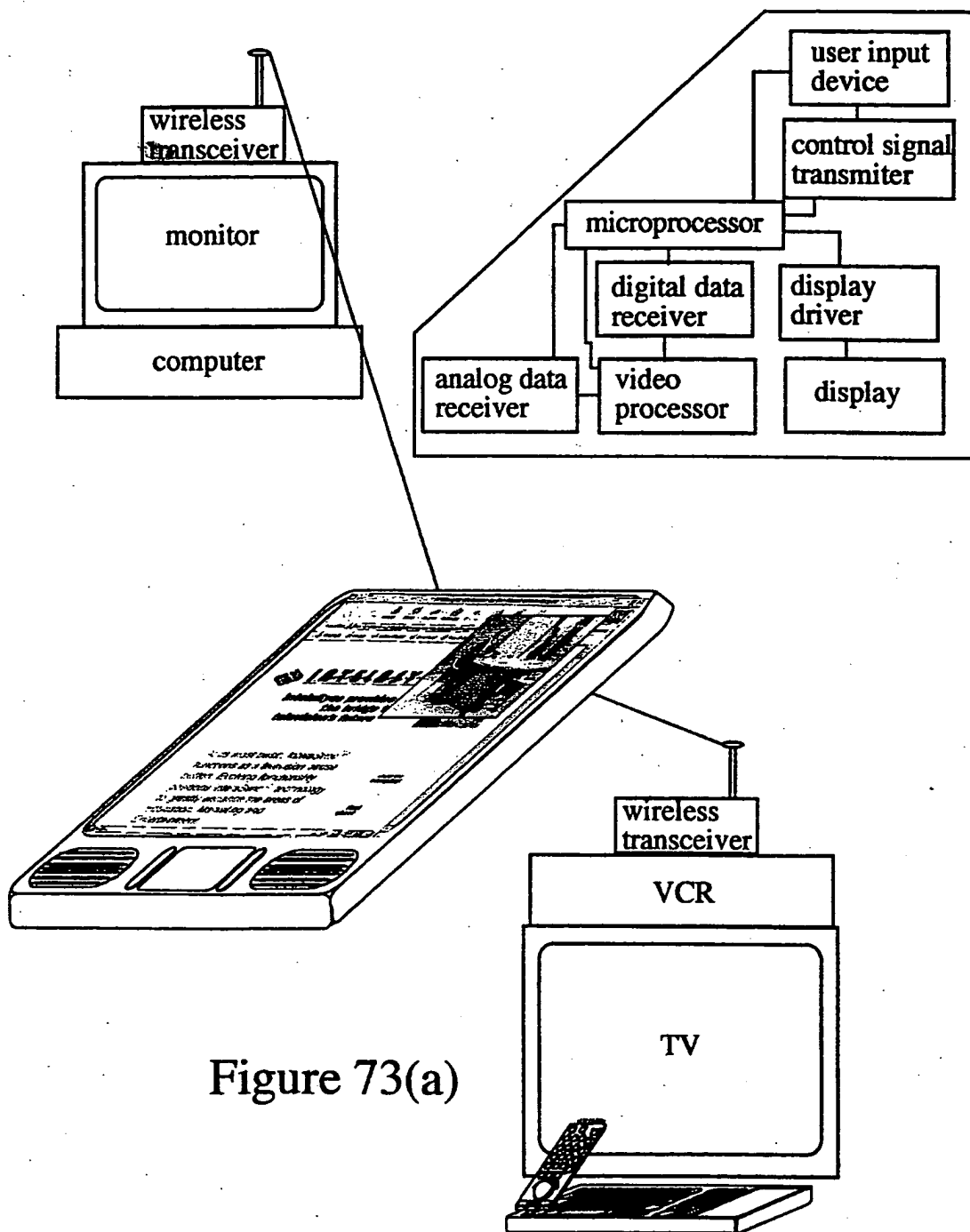


Figure 73(a)

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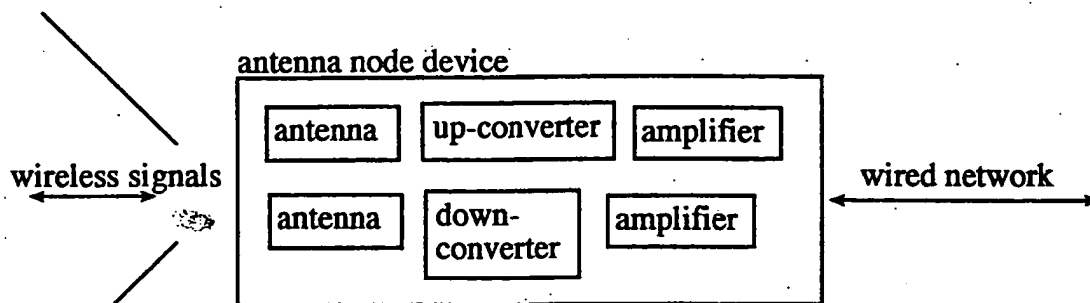


Figure 73(b)

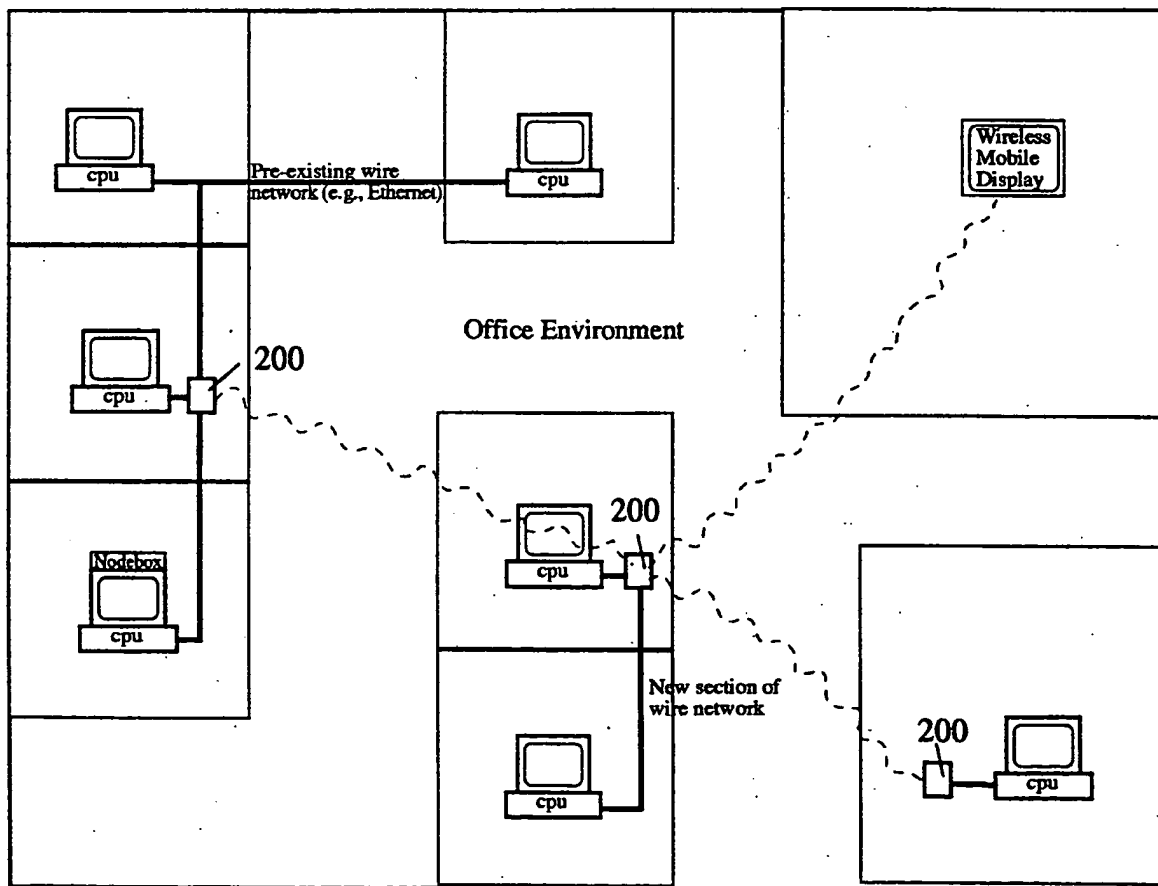


Figure 73(c)

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